REPORT

9239

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1916-17

Nagpur

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9239

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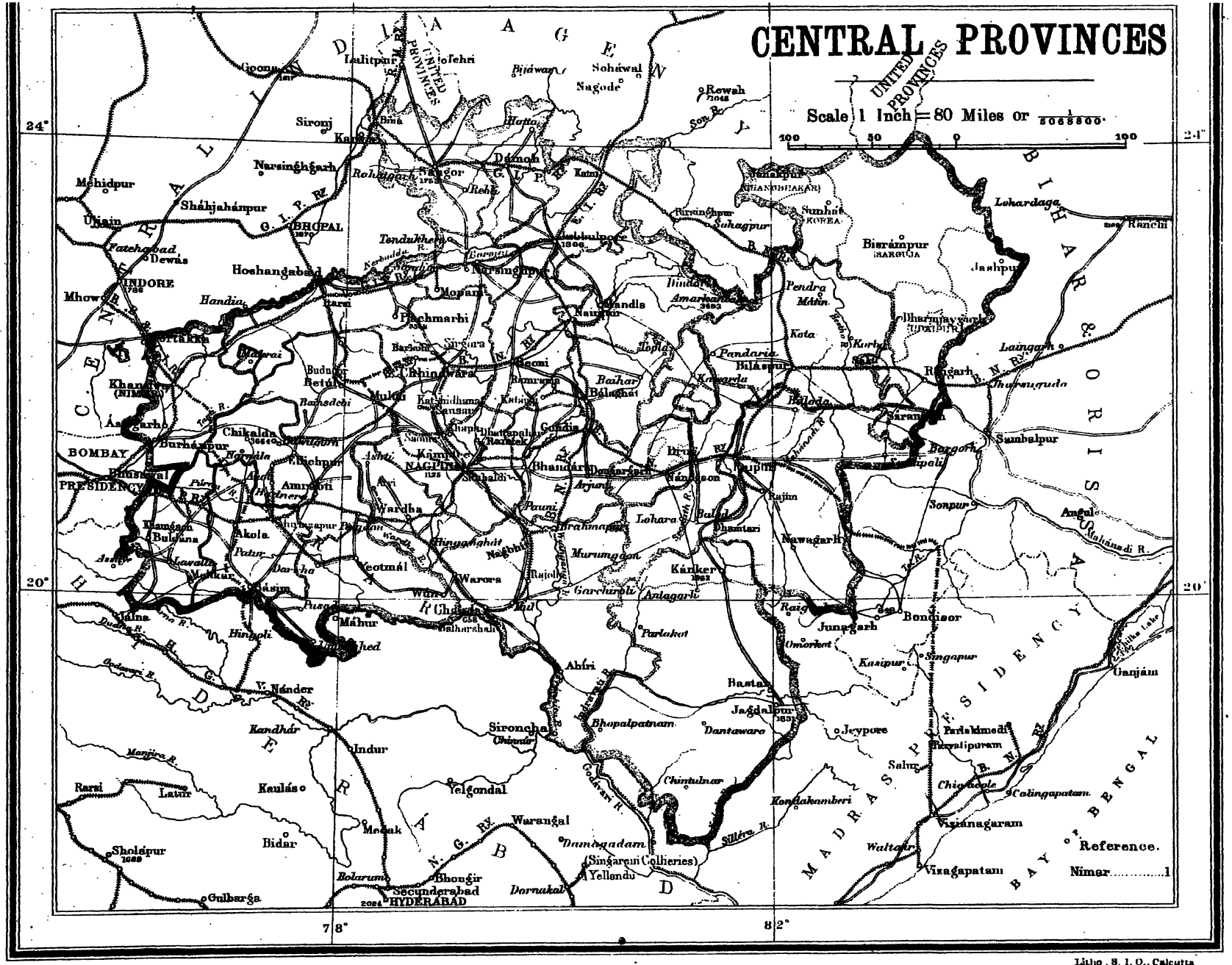

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1916-17

PART I

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Administration.

The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., LL.D., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year.

Legislative Council.

2. The Council elected in July 1914 continued in office during the year under report. It met four times and sat for seven days in all.

Legislation.

3. The Central Provinces Medical Registration Bill and the Central Provinces Land Alienation Bill, which had been introduced in the previous year, were passed into law during the year, and Bills to amend the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act and the Central Provinces Courts Act were introduced and passed. The Land Revenue Bill met with considerable opposition from a section of the non-official members, and was considerably modified in deference to their views, but was finally passed without much difficulty and without any sacrifice of principle.

Other business before the Council.

4. Apart from legislation, not much important business was transacted. The Government accepted a resolution for the introduction of legislation to establish village panchayats, and this legislation is now being drafted in consultation with public opinion. The Members of the Council have shown by their interpellations an earnest appreciation of their functions, combined, it must be said, with an occasional lack of perspective, which will no doubt disappear with greater experience. The tone of the debates has on the whole been friendly, but has at times revealed a sense of dissatisfaction with the constitutional position of the Council as a purely advisory and consultative body, and a tendency to demand its recognition as a part of the administrative machine which is not authorised by the Statute.

The War.

5. It cannot be said that the Province was much affected by the war, which, as time has gone on, has to a large extent ceased to excite interest among the people at large, though every effort has been made to spread a knowledge of the events at the front by the distribution of weekly summaries of war news in English and the vernaculars. At the same time there has been steadily manifested a desire to support the Government, when special calls have been made, as, for instance, in connection with the War Loan at the close of the year and the appeals in

aid of the various War Relief Funds. This has been particularly the case among the rural population, who have often displayed their gratitude for the peace and protection they enjoy by readily responding, according to their means, to such calls. In the Chhattisgarh Division, for instance, when the War Loan was started, the cultivators spontaneously said that it was their duty to help the Government in view of all that had been done for them in the great famines, and the number of small contributors showed how strongly this idea had taken hold amongst the people.

Recruitment for the Army.

6. The Central Provinces has never been a military Province, and, with the exception of a few old military families in Berar, has supplied no men to the Army for many years past. Efforts were made to attract more Beraris into the Mahratta Regiments which recruit them, but it was not till after the expiry of the year under report that the territorial system of recruitment was extended by the military authorities to the Province and that definite efforts were made to recruit new classes both for the combatant services and for labour corps. The result of these efforts will be described in next year's Report.

A ready response was made by the convicts in the Jails to the call for volunteers for the Jail Labour Corps for Mesopotamia, for which over 500 men volunteered at once, while further parties have since been despatched.

Munitions.

7. The Province being almost entirely agricultural cannot help much in the provision of munitions of war. A ready response was made by the owners of factories to a request to lend their lathes for munition work.

8. Heavy demands were made late in the year for grass and timber supplies for military purposes. Although this demand did not come in till after most of the grass had been cut, the officers of the Forest Department threw themselves with such energy into the work that they were able to supply over 18,000 tons of grass, for the pressing of which the proprietors of cotton presses freely placed their presses at the disposal of the Government at reasonable rates. The baling, pressing and despatch of this large quantity of fodder made heavy demands on the time of many officers on the district staffs throughout the hot weather, but the experience gained has been most useful in connection with the still larger demands which have been made by the Army during the current year.

Condition of the people.

9. The monsoon of 1916 broke early in June, gave abundant rainfall throughout the Province, and lasted unusually late. Excessive rain in September and October caused considerable damage to the cotton, juar and til crops, but rice gave a good outturn. The season was favourable to the rabi crops both in the Central Provinces and in Berar, and the rabi harvest was normal or slightly better than normal, although untimely rains after the crops were cut unfortunately did appreciable damage, especially to wheat, on the threshing floors. The condition of the agricultural and labouring classes was good, and the year was generally one of moderate prosperity. Prices, though higher than in the previous year, did not press with any severity on the working classes who found ample employment on good wages throughout the year. The generally favourable conditions of the year were reflected in the decrease in crime which was 11 per cent below that of the previous year.

Public health.

10. The year was an unhealthy one. There was a heavy death roll from cholera, plague and malaria, all of which were unusually prevalent, the unhealthy

conditions caused by the long continuance of the wet season leading to a great deal of sickness from the last disease. The death-rate was 39·95 per 1,000, while the birth-rate was 43·85, the lowest on record for the last 16 years.

Education.

11. The total expenditure on Education rose to 49 lakhs, of which the share borne by Provincial Revenues was over 31 lakhs. The Administration has endeavoured as far as possible to supply funds for all schemes of educational development, even at the expense of other branches of administration. The most important features of the year were the submission to the Government of India of a scheme for the establishment of a Provincial University and of a new Government College at Amraoti, the completion and occupation of new buildings for the Government College at Jubbulpore, the establishment of a Government High School for girls at Amraoti, and the adoption of a new and comprehensive scheme for the training of teachers. Concurrently the policy of raising the pay of vernacular school masters and of increasing the number of schools has been steadily pursued, and it is satisfactory to record that the District Boards of Berar have voluntarily agreed to increase the local rates on land in order to provide themselves with increased funds for educational purposes. A special education rate has at the same time been imposed on persons deriving income from sources other than agricultural in order to make still further provision for the needs of rural education.

Agricultural development.

12. The Department of Agriculture, though hampered by the depletion of its staff of experts, continued to do good work in research, experiment and demonstration. The success achieved in developing *roseum* cotton has, it is calculated, already put an additional annual profit of over a crore of rupees into the pockets of the cotton cultivators of the Province. An Experimental Farm was started at Chandkhuri, near Raipur, to test the possibility of growing long staple cotton under irrigation on the upland soil locally known as *bhata*, with most encouraging results. The Department also distributed to cultivators in the Northern districts seed of the new hardy wheat known as Pusa 88 sufficient to sow 200,000 acres, thus putting some ten or twenty lakhs of rupees into the pockets of the cultivators. The growth of improved varieties of sugarcane and of groundnuts is becoming increasingly popular. Generally speaking it may be said that the people are commencing to take a real interest in the teachings of the Department. As an instance may be quoted the experience of an officer who returned to Chhattisgarh after many years absence and who, after seeing the exhibits at the Raipur Agricultural Show, observed that he could hardly have believed it possible that produce of the quality he saw exhibited could have been raised by the backward peasantry of that part of the country as he had formerly known them.

Co-operative Credit.

13. Co-operative Credit Societies made great progress, the total number of societies having risen from 2,685 to 3,627, and the capital of all societies having increased from Rs. 87,09,187 to Rs. 1,27,33,824. The Provincial and Central Banks are in a sound financial position and the outlook for the development and progress of co-operative credit is distinctly encouraging.

Trade and Industry.

14. Trade was active during the year under report, the net balance in favour of the Province being over nine crores of rupees or six million pounds sterling. The cotton mills had a very successful year owing to the rise in the price of imported piece-goods, but their prosperity has not resulted in the

establishment of any new mills, as under war conditions it is impossible to obtain the requisite machinery. The development of the Central Provinces collieries has made some progress, and the manganese industry has recovered under the stimulus of the demand for munition purposes. The coal deposits in the Korea Feudatory State were under examination by the experts of Messrs. Tata & Co., and the quality of the coal is well reported on. The firm is arranging to take out a mining lease, but nothing can be done until a railway has been built to the field. Sanction has been given to the survey of a branch line from Venkatanagar on the Katni-Bilaspur Branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, but field work on the survey has had to be postponed on account of the difficulty of supplying an engineering staff for the purpose.

Railway communications.

15. The development of Railway communications naturally suffered from the effects of the war. Only slight progress could be made in doubling the main Great Indian Peninsula line from Nagpur to Bhusaval, which is urgently required to cope with the heavy traffic. The narrow-gauge branches from Murtizapur to Yeotmal and Ellichpur had been already opened, but their traffic could not be fully developed for want of sufficient rolling-stock. The Pulgaon-Arvi branch line in the Wardha District was completed and ready to be opened at the end of the year. There is still much scope for the development of narrow-gauge branch lines in the cotton tracts of Berar; several such projects have been surveyed, but construction must wait till the end of the war. Little or no progress could be made with the completion of the Nagpur-Amla portion of the Nagpur-Itarsi line; the coal branch from Amla to the Pench Valley coal field was opened for traffic, but the southern section of the line from Nagpur to Katol has not yet been opened, although construction is practically finished.

Road communications.

16. There is no doubt that a vigorous policy of expanding the railway and road communications of the Province is a most necessary prelude to the full development of its commercial activities. In previous years the Administration had laid down a programme for an extension of main road communications and had been steadily carrying out this programme as funds permitted. The necessity of observing strict economy entailed the contraction of expenditure on these schemes, and no important new lines were taken up. Good progress was, however, made with the construction of the road from Nagpur to Amraoti, which will provide a much needed link between the Central Provinces and Berar. The policy of making the main lines of communication passable throughout the year, by providing them with high-level or submerged bridges over all important rivers and streams, which prove a serious obstruction to traffic for many months of the year, was carried out on a restricted scale.

Irrigation.

17. The year under report saw the first development of irrigation from the Mahanadi Canal system. Thanks to the co-operation of the Revenue and Irrigation authorities, an area of over 70,000 acres was irrigated from this source, while concurrent advantage was taken of the security provided by irrigation to encourage the people to substitute transplantation of rice for the wasteful broad-cast method of sowing, hitherto practised in Chhattisgarh. It is calculated that a net profit of about Rs. 10 per acre is secured to the cultivators by this change, which had been introduced during the year under report over an area of 40,000 acres. An unfortunate set-back was given to the Wainganga irrigation scheme by the breach of a portion of the new dam on the Wainganga River in the heavy floods of September 1916. This breach has since been repaired, and it should be possible

to make a start with irrigation under the system next season. The total area placed under irrigation from Government irrigation works rose from 52,000 to 135,000 acres.

Local Self-Government.

18. There is little to remark under this head. Bills for the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act and the Municipal Act were under consideration, both being designed to afford greater scope for the activities of local bodies and greater freedom from official control. As already mentioned, a resolution proposing the establishment of village panchayats for the management of local village affairs was adopted in the Council and accepted. A notable feature has been the formation of Rate-payers' Associations in several places, which, if properly developed, should result in increasing that popular interest in and supervision over the operations of local bodies which is so necessary as a corollary to the relaxation of official control.

Public peace and order.

19. The year was marked by outbreaks of hostility between the Hindu and Muhammadan communities in several parts of the Province. At Burhanpur a series of riots occurred in August 1916 and punitive police had to be imposed on the town. Similar ill-feeling arose in Jubbulpore, but was kept within bounds by the careful handling of the local officers. In the Yeotmal District of Berar there was an ebullition of bad feeling between Hindus and Muhammadans at the Moharrum, which resulted in some disturbance of the peace. This rupture of the *entente* between the two communities, who had been living in amity for several years past, is most regrettable. It is worth remarking that in all cases the so-called leaders of the people seemed to be unable to secure the confidence of the rank and file and failed to effect any reconciliation in spite of the encouragement given them by the local officials.

20. There was much clamorous political agitation during the year, mostly engineered from outside the Province, with the object of spreading the cult of Home Rule and establishing branches of the Home Rule League in the Province. The Administration has no desire to interfere in any way with legitimate and properly conducted agitation for political reform in India, but it could not contemplate without anxiety, especially when the country is at war, a campaign conducted too often on the lines of exciting ill-will towards the Government by means of false and libellous statements. Accordingly, when it was brought to the Chief Commissioner's notice that Mrs. Besant intended to attend a Provincial Conference at Amraoti and to deliver lectures on political subjects, he thought it advisable to issue an order under the Defence of India Act forbidding her to enter the Province, as, judging by her speeches and writings, he believed that her visit would have an unsettling effect on the people of the Province and be prejudicial to the public safety. The Chief Commissioner's action was severely criticised in the Press, but on the whole was justified by its results.

The Press.

21. There are no daily papers published in this Province, and the weekly and other periodicals published are unimportant and their influence negligible. The amount of space they devote to the progress of the war justifies the remark already made above that its effects are hardly felt in this Province. On the whole, with one or two exceptions, the tone of the local papers was unobjectionable.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

At pages 1 to 54 of the Administration Report for 1911-12 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference :—

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

2. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., LL.D., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year under report.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1916.]

General.

3. There was no change in the administration of any of the Feudatory States, the Korea and Nandgaon States remaining under management by Government owing to the minority of the Feudatory Chiefs. The Chief Commissioner visited the Kanker and Bastar States, in the latter of which he performed the opening ceremony of the Jagdalpur Water-works and Electric Light Installation.

Rainfall and Crops.

4. The monsoon of 1916 was on the whole well sustained and evenly distributed, except in Kanker, where it was scanty in the months of July, August and September and affected the crops to some extent. In Jashpur the rainfall was badly distributed. In Makrai the heavy rainfall in September and October caused considerable damage to the kharif crops, but the spring crops were promising. With these exceptions the outturn of crops was generally normal.

Trade.

5. Trade was generally normal in all the States. Imports and exports remained generally the same as last year. In Sakti State the increased output of lime-stone raised the income from royalty from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 44,000. In Korea the prospecting license for coal granted to Messrs. Tata, Sons & Co. last year was renewed for another year. The survey of a railway to the coal-field

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

still remains to be undertaken, the Bengal-Nagpur Railway having as yet been unable to provide the staff required for the survey. When the railway is constructed, it is anticipated that the firm will be ready to start work on extraction of the coal, of which large quantities of good quality have been found.

Condition of the people.

6. The year was peaceful and the general condition of the people was satisfactory. The price of food-grains was generally steady, except in Bastar where prices were raised by the export of large quantities of rice and wheat. There was plenty of employment available. Wages were stable, except in Udaipur, Sakti and Khairagarh, where they rose slightly. In Udaipur an Agricultural and Industrial Show was held on Dasehra day and efforts were made to introduce the cultivation of ground-nuts, potatoes and sugarcane. Panchayat grain stores have been introduced to relieve the difficulty in obtaining seed-grain. A Government demonstration farm was opened in Kawardha to teach agriculturists improved methods of cotton cultivation. The public health was generally satisfactory. Malaria prevailed in six of the States, and the mortality from this disease was again high in Raigarh State. In Kawardha State small-pox of a virulent type prevailed for some months and claimed a large number of victims in spite of measures taken to check and exterminate the disease. Cattle disease prevailed to a small extent in Korea, Kanker, Khairagarh and some of the villages of Nandgaon.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of the States was generally sound.

Land Revenue.

8. There was an increase in the land revenue demand of Sakti State, owing to the completion of Settlement operations. The land revenue demand was, for the most part, easily realised in full or with small arrears. In Surguja and Makrai alone the arrears were heavy, this being due in Makrai to the failure of kharif crops owing to excessive rain. Taccavi loans in cash were advanced in seven States. A Central Bank was established in the Nandgaon State and the State has invested Rs. 5,000 in this. It is hoped to extend the business of the Bank by the formation of village co-operative credit societies.

Settlement.

9. Settlement operations were completed in the Sakti State and they resulted in an increase of Rs. 8,178 in the annual land revenue demand. The settlement operations in Raigarh continued in progress. Boundary disputes between Raigarh and Gangpur, between Gangpur and Jashpur and between Sarangarh and Sambalpur were finally settled. A boundary dispute between Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan State was amicably settled. A fresh dispute between Jashpur and Surguja State arose and is awaiting settlement. Three boundary disputes in Kanker State, one between Nandgaon and Ambagarh Chowki Zamindari, one between Khairagarh and Silhati Zamindari and one between Bastar State and the Madras Presidency have not yet been settled.

Criminal Law and Justice.

10. The number of reported offences increased in thirteen States and fell in only two. Out of 32 cases committed to the Sessions, 13 were from Bastar and 12 from Chhuikhadan. The number of Criminal and Civil Courts remained stationary, except for the increase of one Civil Court in Khairagarh and the decrease of one Criminal Court in Raigarh. The people are reported to be simple and honest and to settle their differences amicably in Changbhakar State, where no civil suit was instituted during the year.

Jails.

11. The number of admissions to Jails showed an increase in six of the States and a decrease in eight States. The health of the prisoners was good and the death-rate was lower than last year. At Nandgaon five warders' quarters and a latrine were constructed in the Jail premises during the year. The manufacturing of carpets was introduced in the Kawardha Jail, and this has proved successful, though not as yet remunerative.

Forests.

12. In most of the States forest revenue recovered from the heavy decline of last year. The recovery is most marked in the Kanker State. Udaipur State shows a decline due to the termination of the lease with the Bengal Timber Trading Company. In Kawardha forest revenue declined by Rs. 14,243, due to

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

the expiry of a sleeper contract. The large fall of Rs. 14,408 in the forest revenue of Korea State is due to the exclusion of the figures of the forests of the Khargawan Zamindari, which have been handed back to the Zamindar under the orders of the Government of India. In Bastar there was a further improvement in the forest revenue owing to the better prices obtained for sal sleepers and teak logs.

Excise.

13. There was an increase in the excise revenue of all the States, except Kanker, Khairagarh and Changbhakar. In Khairagarh this was due to the increased price of opium. In Changbhakar State the shops were not auctioned but leased out to the old thekedars, and this resulted in a reduction of revenue. Five new liquor shops were opened in Bastar State and one ganja shop was closed. In Surguja liquor shops increased by thirteen and ganja and opium shops by four. On the other hand, liquor shops decreased by seven and ganja and opium shops by three in the Sarangarh State. No change was made in the excise system of any of the States. In Surguja the collection of excise revenue fell short of the demand by Rs. 49,612. Smuggling of ganja from the Sambalpur District into the Raigarh and Sarangarh States continued.

Education.

14. Twelve of the States decreased their expenditure on education, and only two show an increase. There was a fall in the number of schools in Chhuikhadan (1 school) and Nandgaon (11 schools); the large fall in the latter State is due to the amalgamation of feeder classes. A new girls' school was opened at Saja in the Nandgaon State. The number of schools increased in Udaipur (2) and Korea (2). On the whole, there was a slight decline in the number of pupils receiving instruction in schools. In Kanker education is free and is encouraged by giving successful boys appointments in the State Service.

Public Works.

15. Nine of the States increased their expenditure on public works, while six reduced their expenditure. The large rise in the expenditure (Rs. 1,60,956) in Bastar State was due to the construction of the Jagdalpur combined Water-works and Electric Light Installation, offices for the Public Works Department, a new Tahsili and other public buildings. In Jashpur State a new dispensary was constructed. In Raigarh a summer residence for the Chief was built in the Bahirdadar forest. A new palace was constructed at Sarangarh and a palace and some other public buildings completed in Khairagarh State. The large increase in the expenditure of Kawardha State was due to the purchase of machinery for the water-works. In Nandgaon a septic ward at the female hospital and some official quarters were constructed.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The Season.

16. The monsoon of 1916 broke in the Provinces in the first week of June and gave good and well-distributed rain all over the Province in July and August. In September and October there was continuous and unusually heavy rain and the monsoon did not finally withdraw till the first week in November. Excessive rain during September and October damaged and stunted the growth of cotton and juar plants in parts of the Vindhyan and Berar Districts and in Wardha and Nagpur, and retarded the harvesting of kharif crops and rabi sowings. The outturn of rice was good, but, juar, cotton and til, suffering from excessive rain, gave an outturn of less than three-fourths of a normal crop. The kharif outturn ranged from 100 in the rice districts to about 70 in other tracts. December and January were rainless, and at the end of January the prospects of the rabi crops were favourable. Light showers fell in February and March and led to general improvement in the crops, though some damage was caused in places by cloudy weather and hail. Harvesting, threshing and winnowing operations were somewhat hampered in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions and crops on the threshing floor were slightly damaged by rain in May. For the Province as a whole, the rabi outturn ranged from 96 to 100 in American notation. The outturn of both crops for the whole Province was approximately 96 as against 112 in the previous year. The prices of all food-grains, except gram, kodon and kutki, rose

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

higher than in the preceding year. On an average the price of common ri (cleaned) rose by 4 per cent, of juar by 13 per cent, of cotton (ginned) by 40 p cent and of wheat by 4 per cent. The supply of fodder and water was sufficie and no serious loss of stock occurred through outbreaks of cattle disease.

The economic condition of the people was generally good. Labourers h ample employment and commanded high wages. The price of cotton rose aga and trade continued to be brisk and prosperous throughout the year, and th net balance in favour of the Province was over six million pounds sterlin In public health the year was an unhappy one for the people. The birth-rat was 43·85, which is the lowest on record during the last 16 years; th death-rate of the year rose to 39·95. A heavy toll of death was exacted b cholera, plague and malaria, all of which were unusually prevalent during th year, while the birth-rate was affected by the unhealthy conditions of the previou year.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

1—REALISATION OF REVENUE

REALISATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915-16.]

Central Provinces.

17. The total demand on account of land revenue on the roll rose from Rs. 1,01,17,402 on 1st October 1915 to Rs. 1,05,85,500 on 1st October 1916. This increase was mainly due to the revision of settlement in the Saugor, Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, Nagpur and Balaghat Districts. Remissions amounting to Rs. 1,668 were granted but no suspensions were necessary, and the net amount due for collection on account of the current demand was Rs. 1,05,00,453, which was realised practically in full. The demand on account of arrears was Rs. 2,64,082, and of this Rs. 75,189, representing old arrears suspended in Saugor and Damoh Districts in the previous scarcity, was remitted. Of the remainder, Rs. 1,83,629 was collected, leaving only Rs. 5,183 suspended and Rs. 81 overdue. The entire arrears in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions were collected. As regards land revenue not on the roll and miscellaneous revenue there is little that calls for remark. The greater part of the increase under the latter head is mainly due to larger receipts from mining consequent on the increased output during the year, and to the sale of Government plots in the Wardha District.

Berar.

18. There were no important changes in the land revenue demand of Berar and collections were full as usual. Collections of fluctuating revenue increased from Rs. 44,075 to Rs. 76,244, the increase being mainly due to large sales of babul trees on E Class areas and to premia recovered on nazul encroachments. The miscellaneous collections also rose from Rs. 1,18,525 to Rs. 1,45,260, last year's revenue having been exceptionally low under the head Record-of-Rights.

Coercive processes.

19. As was to be expected in a favourable year, the revenue was collected without any great amount of pressure and the number of coercive processes issued showed a large decrease on the previous year, though it substantially exceeds the figures for 1913-14. The Jubbulpore Division, in which the stress of the past scarcity was most felt, accounted for the largest share of processes issued. In Berar, owing to the favourable circumstances of the year, the number of coercive processes issued was less than half that of the previous year. But the fact that 378 orders for the attachment of property resulted in only 6 sales indicates that even the present number of processes could be reduced by a more liberal application of the penalty prescribed in Rule 256 of the Rules under the Land Revenue Code.

Government loans.

20. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1917:—

Statement showing the Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) for the financial year ending the 31st March 1917 (Preliminary Accounts).

	Advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.			Advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act.		
	With interest.		Without interest sanctioned in 1900-01.	With interest.		Without interest.
	Sanctioned prior to the 1st October 1916.	Sanctioned after the 1st October 1916.		Sanctioned prior to the 1st October 1916.	Sanctioned after the 1st October 1916.	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1916.	11,89,337 13 6	...	14 12 9	13,65,342 4 5	...	...
Remitted during the year 1916-17.	291 13 11	...	...	...	...	...
Collected do. do.	8,54,356 14 9	37 8 0	...	4,04,170 9 2	...	...
Advanced do. do.	1,58,063 7 4	58,849 0 0	...	44,909 0 0	25,568 0 0	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*	4,92,752 8 2	58,811 8 0	14 12 9	10,06,080 11 9	25,568 0 0	...

REALISATION OF REVENUE

Central Provinces.

21. The improvement in agricultural conditions led to a greatly decreas demand for loans from Government, and the advances made under the Ag culturists' Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act amounted to Rs. 2,71,2 and Rs. 41,645, respectively, as compared with Rs. 7,54,773 and Rs. 1,06,4 in the preceding year. The total amount due for collection within the ye including arrears and interest, was about fifteen and half lakhs. Of this, o fourteen and half lakhs was collected. Considering the large sums due recovery, these results were not unsatisfactory. The net result of the worki of the year was a profit to Government of Rs. 85,098.

Berar.

22. In Berar the amounts actually disbursed during the financial y 1915-16 were Rs. 63,162 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Rs. 80,0 under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The total sum due, including previ arrears, was collected, leaving the small sum of Rs. 3,165 in arrears. The result of the year's working is a profit of Rs. 15,883 to Government.

SURVEYS

2—SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provin during the year ending the 30th September 1916 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1916.]

23. In accordance with the regular annual programme mentioned in la year's report, the Traverse Party worked in the Betul and Seoni Districts a sub-traverse lines were laid down in 612 villages. The Assistant Settleme Officer in charge was also asked to undertake the demarcation and survey a short length of Rewa-Mandla border and a longer stretch of boundary betwe Surguja State and Korea and Jashpur States. In Berar an area of 168 acres the Kelapur Taluq was surveyed and carved out into small fields to be given o for cultivation.

SETTLEMENT

3—SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces dur the year ending the 30th September 1916 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1916.]

24. Operations for the revision of settlement were in progress in t Saugor, Nagpur, Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, Balaghat, Seoni and Bhanda Districts. A forecast report was submitted for the re-settlement of the Be District and the sanction of the Government of India to the inception of settleme was received at the close of the year. The settlement operations in Nagp were completed during the year and the work in Saugor was concluded short after its close. In the Hoshangabad and Balaghat Districts attestation work w finished and announcement was carried on. Excellent progress was made Chhindwara, although the staff suffered from the unhealthiness of the tract which they were working, and attestation was completed except in a few Ja villages which had to be left over owing to the early break of the rains. Orde for the revision of settlement in the Seoni and Bhandara Districts were receiv late in November and in January respectively, but progress was delayed, as t staff had to be trained in local conditions, and at Seoni a severe outbreak plague also hindered operations. Map correction was in progress in the Seo Bhandara and Betul Districts.

LAND RECORDS

4—LAND RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provin during the year ending the 30th September 1916 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1916.]

Land Records establishment.

25. The patwari halkabandis were revised and brought into force in Seo Nimar, Chhindwara and part of Betul, resulting in an increase of 1 patwari circles, mainly in the Chhindwara and Seoni Districts. On the oth hand, 11 patwari circles were abolished in the Narsinghpur District and furt proposals for abolishing 24 more circles are under consideration. A comprehe sive scheme for the improvement of the pay of patwaris on a graded system h been submitted to the Government of India for sanction: if it is introduced, i hoped to attract a better class of recruits for the patwari staff and provide a bet means of enforcing discipline. In Berar there was no addition to the strength the Land Records establishment, but proposals to increase the staff of Reven

Boundary marks.

26. Village boundary marks in the Central Provinces were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition. Except in districts under settlement or map correction, circle and village note-books were maintained up to date. In Berar the condition of boundary marks continues to be unsatisfactory and action is being taken to improve matters.

Testing of village papers.

27. The amount and quality of the testing of village papers by Revenue Inspectors was generally adequate in the Central Provinces. The check by Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants has been generally satisfactory and proceeded on right lines. The amount of testing done by the Tahsil staff has been adequate except in seven districts. It is desirable that more attention should be paid by Assistants on the district staff to the checking of Land Records while on tour. The annual papers were filed punctually and village maps were in fairly good condition. In Berar the checking done by Revenue Inspectors was generally adequate, but the superior staff showed a tendency to neglect the work. A fair amount of check was exercised by Tahsildars and their Naibs.

Record-of-Rights.

28. The preparation of the Record-of-Rights and measurement of sub-divisions of survey numbers has now been completed in all unalienated villages in the Berar Division, except in the Melghat, which has not yet reached the stage of development rendering elaborate village records necessary. The introduction of this important reform has been carried out without any serious dislocation of work and has cost Government nothing, as the measurement and *parcha* fees have more than covered the total expenditure on the special establishment employed. The Civil Courts have already expressed appreciation of the usefulness of the Record-of-Rights as evidence. A complete manual of instructions for the proper maintenance of the Record-of-Rights has issued since the close of the year.

Conduct of the Land Records staff.

29. The punishment roll of patwaris showed some improvement as compared with the previous year, while the number of Revenue Inspectors punished increased slightly, but none was dismissed. The conduct and discipline of the patwaris has on the whole been good, and the supervision of the superior Land Records staff is reported to have been satisfactory. The general conduct of patwaris in Berar was satisfactory, but the roll of punishments inflicted was heavy, this being inevitable on account of the quality and amount of work required of patwaris owing to the introduction of the Record-of-Rights.

5—WASTE LANDS

WASTE LANDS

[Report on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1915-16.]

Central Provinces.

30. The total area included in occupied survey numbers shows a rise of 12,471 acres. The allotment of waste land on raiyatwari tenure proceeded steadily, and the excess in the area given out over that relinquished was about 21,000 acres, which is well above the average of the past 5 years. The area still available for allotment at the end of the year was 232,857 acres, but that this is of poor quality is indicated by the fact that the average assessment on it works out to no more than Re. 0-3-1 per acre. In the Chanda District land revenue being light, survey numbers are sometimes taken merely with the object of obtaining grazing and *nistar* rights in the raiyatwari forest, and measures were taken to discourage undesirable holders. Steady progress is reported in the improvement of the more important raiyatwari estates, and the allotted grants have been spent in the construction of wells and improvement of communications. A dispensary was opened in one of the raiyatwari villages of Nimar.

Berar.

31. In Berar the area available for cultivation in khalsa villages was 29,554 acres. During the year 434 acres was newly occupied and 417 acres already occupied was relinquished. In the Buldana District the Jagir village of Ridhora was resumed, and in the Yeotmal District certain adjustments required by the grazing settlement in Yeotmal and Darwha Taluqs resulted in an addition of 1,955 acres to E Class and other unoccupied land available for free grazing.

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

32. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

WARDS' ESTATES

7—WARDS' ESTATES

Wards' Estates.

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1916.]

33. At the beginning of the year there were 73 estates under the management of the Court of Wards; four more estates were brought under management during the year and four relinquished, leaving the total number unchanged at the close of the year. The total area of the 67 estates which remained under management throughout the year and for which statistics have been furnished, was 6,355,399 acres. All the four estates relinquished had much improved under the Court of Wards' management and they were handed over to the proprietors with substantial investments and cash balances, which in the case of the Phuljhar Estate amounted to Rs. 40,803.

Income.

34. The total gross income of the 67 estates amounted to Rs. 21,91,949, consisting of Rs. 8,46,054 on account of rents, Rs. 4,06,379 from forests, Rs. 5,15,339 from miscellaneous sources, including interest, and Rs. 4,24,177 on account of recovery of advances and debts. The total rental demand, excluding remissions and suspensions, was Rs. 9,30,218, of which a sum of Rs. 8,46,054, practically equal to the total net current demand, was collected. The collections were on the whole satisfactory. Out of the total arrear demand of Rs. 1,05,135 outstanding at the beginning of the year, a sum of Rs. 20,913 was remitted, and Rs. 51,384 collected, leaving for recovery Rs. 23,931. The unsuspended balance left for recovery out of the current year's demand was only Rs. 44,796. The total income from forests, which is of considerable importance, rose from Rs. 3,89,682 to Rs. 4,06,379, the increase being shared by a large number of estates. Working-plans for the forests are being prepared in some of the estates. The training of students from the zemindari estates in the Balaghat Forest School continues to receive proper attention from the estates.

Expenditure.

35. The total ordinary gross expenditure of the year was Rs. 12,72,553 compared with Rs. 12,59,177 in the previous year. The increase was mainly contributed by the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions and was due to a rise in the personal expenses of wards. In Chhattisgarh Division donations to the extent of Rs. 23,300 were made by the estates under the Court of Wards to the Lady Robertson War Relief Fund. The net cost of management for all the estates declined from 16 to 15 per cent of the gross income.

Debts.

36. Good progress was made in paying off the debts of most of the encumbered estates, Rs. 1,26,219 being devoted to this purpose out of the current income, in addition to Rs. 1,89,916 obtained from the sale of property. The total liabilities of all the encumbered estates were reduced to Rs. 8,96,896, or by nearly 3 lakhs during the year, and nine estates were entirely freed from debt. The financial position is sound in all but four estates.

General.

37. The relations between the Court of Wards and its tenants continued to be satisfactory. Rents were generally recovered without much difficulty. The demand for taccavi loans in cash was small, but liberal advances of seed grain were given everywhere. There was marked improvement in the results of home-farm cultivation, due to the general policy of concentrating cultivation in compact areas susceptible of efficient supervision and leasing out the home-farm in estates where there was usually a loss. There was a direct loss under home-farm cultivation in only five estates as compared to 15 in the previous year. The total expenditure on estate improvements amounted to Rs. 1,64,303. The education of minor wards and their relatives continued to receive due attention, and their progress and conduct were on the whole satisfactory. Efforts were also made to associate senior wards in the management of their estates.

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

8—REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1916 and of Berar for the year ending 31st July 1916.]

General Conditions, Central Provinces.

38. The monsoon of 1915, which broke rather late, gave ample and well-distributed rain towards the end of June and the following three months. The rainfall continued till the middle of October, which marked the close of the monsoon. The course of the season was favourable to the kharif crops and the

conditions at the close of the monsoon were propitious for the rabi crops. The months from November to January were, however, practically rainless, and, though light rain fell in February, frost caused injury to the standing crops in the north of the Province. The course of the rabi season as a whole was less favourable than its beginning, and the hopes of an exceptional outturn were disappointed.

Berar.

39. In Berar the year was exceptionally favourable to agriculture, the rainfall was convenient for sowing cotton and juar as well as wheat, and it was well distributed over the monsoon months.

40. Although in places in the Central Provinces too much moisture caused some damage to the cotton crop, and lack of rain from November to January and some frost in February marred the early prospects of a bumper rabi harvest, the year as a whole was a good one. While no crop was poor, kharif was superior to rabi, but the latter almost reached the normal and gave an outturn well above that of the previous year. The area in occupation, both malguzari and raiyatwari, showed a substantial rise, which is, however, much surpassed by the increase in the cropped area, which rose by 496,913 acres. These satisfactory features are well distributed over the Province, every district but one showing a larger occupied area. There was little cattle disease except in the districts of Chanda and Mandla. In Berar excessive rain in September followed by great heat in October, somewhat detracted from an otherwise excellent monsoon: still the outturn of all the important crops was above the average. The low prices of the previous season caused the area under cotton to fall again, but the shrinkage of 330,000 acres, or 10 per cent of the total area, is not altogether a matter for regret, as there had been a tendency for some years to sow too much cotton at the expense of food and fodder crops and to the detriment of the crop itself, as rotation is neglected. There was little epidemic disease among cattle.

41. In the Central Provinces the good yield of the harvest as a whole, accompanied by the remunerative prices prevailing for produce, enabled the people to recover from the ill effects of the lean period in the past. Prices for produce were high, the cotton market having recovered from the slump of the previous year, and the condition of the agricultural classes was consequently prosperous. It was therefore found possible, before the end of 1915, to close the operations which were started in the previous year for the relief of the weaver communities of Burhanpur and Nagpur, whose livelihood depends on the purchasing power of the people at large. The labouring classes benefited from the increased demand for labour for agricultural purposes as well as for manganese mines and cotton mills and obtained high rates of wages, and a shortage of labour was reported from some of the southern districts. Though plague and cholera appeared sporadically, there was no widespread epidemic of disease. In Berar the abundant supply of juar and *karbi*, which form the staple food of man and beast, good cotton prices and a keen demand for labour produced a high level of prosperity, which was sufficiently indicated by the unusually large number of marriages, the repayment of mortgages, the rise in the excise revenue and some fall in crime. The temporary dislocation of the money market caused by the war disappeared. Unfortunately, however, the year was very unhealthy; there was a widespread epidemic of plague and there were local outbreaks of malaria and cholera. The narrow gauge railway line from Murtizapur to Yeotmal was opened during the year for goods and passenger traffic.

42. The relations between the people and Government remained cordial. Calls for subscriptions for the War Relief Funds received a spontaneous and liberal response as in the previous year. The Weekly Summary of War News issued in the vernacular as well as in English, for the dissemination of authentic war news among the general public, is reported to have been widely circulated and much appreciated. The record of the year in the Nimar District was unfortunately marred towards its close by the sudden development of religious animosities between the Hindus and Muhammadans of Burhanpur, which culminated in serious disturbances in August and necessitated the imposition of a special Police force to restore order. Relations between the two communities were also strained in Jubbulpore. In Berar there was an ebullition of bad feeling between Hindus and Muhammadans at the Moharram in the Yeotmal District: it was,

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

however, kept within bounds. The progress of the co-operative movement has been as fast as is consistent with its healthy growth. The operations of the Agricultural Department cover an ever-widening field by the multiplication of demonstration farms. The Veterinary Department continues to grow in public confidence and utility, and the prejudice against novel methods is dying out except in backward districts.

Tenants.

43. The total rental demand of the year was Rs. 1,50,34,525 as compared with Rs. 1,45,22,080 in the previous year. Having regard to the large arrears falling due for recovery from the previous unfavourable seasons, the collection, both on account of current demand and arrears, was satisfactory. The average rent paid by tenants of various classes was Re. 0-14-3 per acre as compared with Re. 0-13-5 in 1914-15, and there is little or no change in the incidence of rent except in districts under settlement. The area included in tenants' holdings showed a further increase of 74,739 acres, the bulk of the increase being contributed by ordinary tenants.

Landlords.

44. The area held as *sir* land rose by 14,382 acres owing to the conferral of *sir* rights in districts under settlement. The *khudkasht* area increased by 33,289 acres. This expansion, which is in contrast with the decline of 30,585 acres for the previous year, is accounted for generally by the breaking up of waste land by the malguzars. The percentage of occupied area held by malguzars rose from 18·66 to 18·77. At the same time the area of *sir* land leased out to sub-tenants fell by 22,924 acres, and the average recorded sub-rent, which has steadily risen in past years, declined to Rs. 2-14-6.

Landlords and tenants. Central Provinces.

45. The relations between landlords and tenants continued to be generally satisfactory. Isolated cases of unfriendly feelings occurred, and cases of exploitation of primitive tenants in backward tracts by the grant of defective rent receipts and realisation of unauthorised charges of grazing are reported from the Mandla District. The question of the tenants' rights of grazing in the village forest is a frequent cause of disagreement, and great benefit is likely to result from the ruling of the Judicial Commissioner's Court in a recent case on this point.

Berar.

46. In Berar there was little to record regarding the relations between the various classes of the agricultural population. The Izara Tenancy Bill, which is intended to settle the vexed question of the relations between the Izardars and their tenants in the Yeotmal District, was further discussed. It is hoped that this measure will soon become law.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Council.

47. During the year under report the Council elected in 1914 continued in office; but there were six changes in the *personnel* of the official members and two in that of the non-official members.

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

Bills introduced in Council.

48. In the year 1916-17 the Council met three times and sat for seven days in all. Of the Bills introduced during the last year, the Central Provinces Medical Registration Bill and the Central Provinces Land Alienation Bill were passed into law. The Land Revenue Bill, on which the Select Committee presented its report in March 1916, was again referred back to the Select Committee for further consideration, in view of the large number of amendments of which notice had been given.

49. The only Bill introduced during the year was to amend the Central Provinces Courts Act in order to adjust the law to the new conditions which arose on the introduction of the new Judicial Service organisation scheme. The Bill was passed into law in the March session and took effect after the close of the year under report.

The Central Provinces Land Revenue Bill and the Tenancy Amendment Act were passed into law after the close of the year 1916-17.

Berar.

50. Besides the special War Ordinances and Acts, the only Act applied to Berar was the Indian Arms Act (Amendment), 1878 (XI of 1878), which was applied by Foreign Department Notification No. 889-G of 28th May 1916.

3—POLICE

POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1916 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Crime, General.

51. As a natural consequence of the general prosperity of all classes during the year under report, the volume of crime decreased. Excluding the cases in Class VI, which are unimportant, the total reported crime fell from 39,682 to 35,556, a drop of 11 per cent. Unfortunately the year was marked by a recrudescence of ill feeling between the Muhammadan and Hindu communities in several places, notably at Burhanpur, where prolonged rioting led to the imposition of a punitive police force on the town, and at Jubbulpore, where serious trouble was averted by tactful handling of the situation. The relations between the police and people continued to improve, and public confidence in the Department is steadily and visibly growing.

Offences against the State, the person and property.

52. The number of offences against the State fell from 351 to 347. The number of riots slightly decreased from 228 to 211, the only cases worth mentioning were those at Burhanpur, where, however, the rioters had no quarrel with, and attempted no resistance to, the police. Murders numbered 246 as against 242 in the previous year. There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of dacoities from 89 to 57. An unsatisfactory feature is the number of arson cases, which rose to the record level of 706. The number of robberies shows little variation, but there is a satisfactory downward tendency in Berar.

Police action.

53. A satisfactory feature of the year is the capture and breaking up of several gangs and the success of the local officers in securing the harmonious co-operation of the police of the neighbouring States. Improvement in the methods of investigation continued steadily. Action under the preventive

provisions of the law was freely taken and the effect of this action is universally conceded to have been excellent. The Administration has noted with pleasure the improvement in the surveillance exercised by the police over registered habitual criminals; the necessity of restricting the names on the surveillance register to a number, which will permit of really effective surveillance, is now more generally recognized. In Berar the system of appointing special police jaglias has recently been introdued to secure better reporting of crime.

The officers of the Criminal Investigation Department were again very fully employed throughout the year. More use was made of the Finger-Print Bureau, but there is still much room for improvement in this direction.

The year was not altogether a fortunate one for the Saugor Training School. The results of the final examination were disappointing, 11 out of the 78 students being unsuccessful. In other respects—drill, discipline and athletics—the standard of the School was fully maintained. It is still very difficult to obtain satisfactory local candidates to join the School.

Rural and Punitive Police.

54. There are no rural police in the Central Provinces. Forces of punitive police were imposed at three places.

Establishment.

55. The strength of the police was increased by the addition of two Inspectors and three Sub-Inspectors and reduced by eight Head Constables. The total sanctioned strength of the rank and file remained unchanged. The total annual cost of the force fell from Rs. 34,90,880 to Rs. 34,78,881, the decrease being due to a large number of vacancies in the rank and file and to continued financial economy on account of the war. The reorganization of the ministerial staff of district offices was effected during the year. The number of vacancies in the rank and file rose to 680 in spite of special efforts made to recruit.

Miscellaneous.

56. While there are, as usual, many instances of staunch and loyal conduct, a certain deterioration in the general discipline was noticed. The number of punishments awarded rose from 1,077 to 1,106, which includes 7 officers and 185 men dismissed, 122 officers and 735 men departmentally punished and 1 officer and 56 men judicially punished. 4,284 members of the force were rewarded otherwise than by promotion; the rewards paid by the Department amounted to Rs. 12,283, and those by Courts, complainants and other Departments to Rs. 11,287.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the calendar year 1916 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Crime.

57. The number of offences reported decreased from 38,508 in 1915 to 36,129 in 1916, the fall being mainly in cases under the Indian Penal Code. The total number of offences before the Courts fell from 40,246 to 37,631, while the number of cases found to be true decreased from 30,079 to 27,957. Offences affecting the human body fell from 15,630 to 14,738, the more serious cases being reduced from 500 to 445. There was a decrease in the number of offences against property, public tranquillity and public justice. The stoppage of construction of works in consequence of the war caused a large fall in the number of offences under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act. The number of complaints dismissed under Section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, fell from 7,944 to 7,512, but bears a slightly higher proportion to cases reported. The number of miscellaneous proceedings remained practically the same. No cases occurred requiring recourse to the provisions of the Indian Press Act, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act or the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

58. The strength of the Magistracy rose from 565 to 583. Fourteen districts have had one or more Magistrates other than District Magistrates empowered under Section 30, Criminal Procedure Code. The number of persons tried by Stipendiary Magistrates fell from 36,473 to 34,134, and the numbers under trial before Honorary and Special Magistrates were 14,523 and

507 as compared with 15,917 and 520 respectively last year. The number of cases tried summarily fell from 3,243 to 3,130. The number of persons released under Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, was 717 and that of juvenile offenders dealt with under the Reformatory Schools Act was 73.

The despatch of business.

59. The number of cases disposed of during the year by all Courts fell from 29,811 to 27,912. There was practically no change in the average duration of cases.

Sessions Courts.

60. The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts was 226 as against 292 of the previous year. The percentage of convictions was 60·8 as against 64·2, and the average duration fell from 55·1 to 47·2 days.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

61. The strength of the Judicial Commissioner's Court was increased by the temporary appointment of a fifth Judge from 16th September 1916 for the period of one year. The number of convicted persons whose appeals were before the Judicial Commissioner's Court fell from 474 to 338. The cases of 642 persons against 571 in 1915 were dealt with by the Court in revision; in 13 cases the sentence was enhanced and in 147 either reduced or set aside: 55 references as against 69 in 1915 for the confirmation of death sentences were disposed of during the year. In 1916 there were three cases, involving four accused, in which the Local Government appealed against acquittal. One was pending at the close of the year, one appeal was dismissed and in the third the accused was convicted. The number of persons whose appeals were before the Sessions Courts fell from 1,856 to 1,813 and those before District and Subordinate Magistrates empowered to hear appeals from 3,128 to 2,758. The average duration of appeals in Sessions Courts rose slightly to 20·0 from 19·8, while in Magistrates' Courts it fell from 17·3 to 16·3. The appeals of 1,442 persons were dismissed summarily in 1916 as against 1,730 in 1915.

Punishments.

62. The number of persons sentenced to death was 32 as against 50 in 1915, and that of persons sentenced to transportation 90 as against 124. The percentages of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without other punishment, to fine only and to whipping only were 22·6, 73·8 and 3·6 respectively as against 25·2, 70·3 and 4·5 in 1915. The number of persons previously convicted fell from 721 to 602, and generally adequate sentences were passed in the case of previous convicts. The number of persons sentenced to fine only fell from 13,628 to 13,255, the total amount imposed as fine being Rs. 2,06,187 as against Rs. 1,95,890 in 1915. The percentage of realization was distinctly good, being 92·4 per cent. The amount written off as unrealizable was Rs. 15,151. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory School was 7 as against 10 in 1915.

5—PRISONS

PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the calendar year 1916 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

General.

63. During the year under report three District Jails were reduced to the status of Subsidiary Jails and one Subsidiary Jail was abolished. Thus, at the end of the year, there were 3 Central Jails, 13 District Jails and 5 Subsidiary Jails. The policy of reducing small District Jails to the status of Subsidiary Jails and of sending persons sentenced to more than a month's imprisonment to Central Jails is found to be sound, economical and efficient, and a reduction of two more District Jails has been sanctioned. The Jail for Adolescents at Narsinghpur is working successfully and the practice followed in it, of training the convicts in a trade which they can follow on release, will, it is hoped, have an excellent reformative effect. Sets of tools are given free, in selected cases, to those who wish, after release, to follow the trade taught them in the Jail. A grant of Rs. 150 was made to the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society in Raipur, and the organisation of such societies in other districts is being encouraged. An interesting event in the year's history was the call for volunteers for the Jail Labour Corps in Mesopotamia; over 500 convicts volunteered, of whom about 400 were passed as fit to be sent, and these have been despatched since the close of the year.

PRISONS

Jail population. 64. Although the number of admissions fell from 10,815 in 1915 to 9,06 the year under report, the average daily strength of prisoners was 4,066 compared with 4,136 during 1915. This is largely accounted for by the numl of prisoners sentenced by Military Courts and transferred to Jails in the Cent Provinces. The total number of reconvicted prisoners fell from 851 to 7 The number of juveniles admitted to Jail fell from 14 in 1915 to 12 in 1916.

Jail discipline. 65. The number of offences fell from 14,988 to 14,056 in spite of a grea daily number of prisoners. The offences dealt with by Criminal Courts decreas from 19 to 13 and the number of corporal punishments fell from 21 to There were 3 escapes of convicts during the year: two were from inside t Jail and one from outside. Two were recaptured and one is at large.

Health. 66. The year was an unhealthy one, the death-rate rising from 18 in 1915 to 22·63 in 1916. The number of daily average sick also rose from 48 57. The statistics of admission to hospitals and of deaths in the Raipur a Nagpur Central Jails exhibit a state of health which is unsatisfactory, a measures have been taken to improve matters.

Jail Industries. 67. The industries at the Central Jails show on the whole another yea successful working, which materially contributed towards the substantial reducti in the average cost per head. The Quinine Factory in the Nagpur Central J turned out 4,949,381 tablets and 385,520 powders, which is nearly double t quantity manufactured in 1915. The Printing Press and paper-making were a successful. In the Jubbulpore Jail, in addition to the usual industries, a tailori department and a pottery department were opened, and the Jail continued to meet t heavy requirements of the Army Department in the way of cotton manufactures. T total sum drawn from the Treasury on manufacturing account was Rs. 2,48,2 while the total realisations were Rs. 3,12,487, the profit amounting to Rs. 64,2 which compares favourably with the nominal loss of Rs. 17,200 in 1915. A da average of 379 convicts was engaged in Jail gardens and produced vegetab for the prisoners' use to the value of Rs. 14,078 as against Rs. 15,843 in 19 An average of 1,437 was employed in Jail manufactures. Buildings and repairs Jails employed a daily average of 360 prisoners, and the value of their labo was Rs. 2,283.

Cost of Jail administration. 68. The total expenditure incurred in guarding and maintaining prisoners the Jails during the year was Rs. 3,88,460 as compared with Rs. 4,11,136 in 19 The average cost per head of the Jail population was Rs. 95-8-8 as compar with Rs. 99-6-5, and the net cost per head was Rs. 79-15-0 against Rs. 99-6 in 1915, as a result of the increased earnings by Jail factories. The savin effected to Government by the employment of prison labour amounted Rs. 69,394 as compared with Rs. 88,499 in 1915.

CIVIL JUSTICE

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916 Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Tribunals and character of litigation. 69. There was no change in the number of Civil Courts. A fourth Ad tional Judicial Commissioner was appointed from the 16th of September 19 There was one District Judge less and one Additional District Judge more the end of the year owing to the absorption of Chanda into the Wardha C District on the 1st July. The year under report saw another considerable r in the volume of litigation, the number of suits of all classes rising from 110,5 in 1915 to 127,981 in 1916. This is the highest figure since 1910. All distric except one, contribute to the rise, and the increase is noticeable in all classes suits. The war seems to have had no appreciable effect on litigation, except causing some stringency in the money market and so preventing the renev of bonds.

The total value of suits instituted rose from Rs. 2,18,15,825 to Rs. 2,58,78,8 The average value of suits remained stationary in the Central Provinces Rs. 163, while in Berar it rose from Rs. 292 to Rs. 302. The number of Cou

exercising Small Cause Courts jurisdiction increased by one and the powers of two Additional District Judges and one Munsiff were enhanced. The proportion of work done by Small Cause Courts continues to increase, the number being 73,052 in 1916 as against 61,448 in 1915. The average value per suit rose from Rs. 84 to Rs. 86.

Pending files.

70. The disposals in 1916 numbered 127,591, or 17,837 more than in 1915, but this improved outturn was not sufficient to keep pace with the volume of work before the Courts, and there has been a general rise in the pending file, the total increase over last year's figures being 3,328; for more than two-thirds of this the Berar districts are responsible. Suits pending over 6 months do not show any great increase. The average duration shows a satisfactory decrease, except in Small Cause Courts, where, as a natural result of the heavier work, the duration has risen lightly. The average duration in Berar continues to be high as compared with that in the Central Provinces.

Execution of decrees.

71. The number of applications for execution rose from 127,385 to 140,005. Disposals were more numerous (113,247 against 102,108) but not sufficient to counterbalance the increase in applications, and the pending file shows an increase from 25,277 to 26,758. It is satisfactory to note, however, that the number pending over three months has remained stationary in Berar and fallen in Central Provinces. The amount realised increased from Rs. 23,98,919 to Rs. 28,43,436. The number of applications which were wholly infructuous rose from 52·3 to 55·1 per cent on the total number of applications disposed of.

Appellate litigation.

72. The number of appeals instituted in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner fell from 1,476 in 1915 to 1,386 during the year under report. 1,654 appeals, as against 1,397, were disposed of, leaving a pending file of 1,307 cases as against 1,575 in 1915. In 1916 there was a further decline in the number of appeals before the Divisional Courts, institutions falling from 480 to 391. Disposals decreased from 478 to 443 and the total pending file of the four Divisional Courts from 165 to 113. In regular appeals, Chhattisgarh is the only Division with an increase in the pending file, other Divisions showing a satisfactory improvement. The average duration of appeals has decreased from 146 to 137 days. The appellate work in District Judges' Courts also decreased considerably in 1916. Institutions in the Central Provinces numbered 3,365 and in Berar 1,520 as compared with 3,660 and 1,807 in 1915. Disposals were less than in the preceding year, but nevertheless the pending files were reduced from 667 to 590 in the Central Provinces and from 689 to 641 in Berar.

Miscellaneous.

73. Relations between the Bench and the Bar continued to be cordial. The work of the process-servers is fairly satisfactory, only 6 cases of misappropriation having been reported. In the copying department the rules regulating the grant of copies were revised. Five Munsifs, a new Bar-room at Nagpur and three quarters for officers were completed and occupied during the year.

7—REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar years 1914, 1915 and 1916 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Registration.

74. The improvement in the volume of registration business, which was marked in the last four months of the year 1915, continued steadily during 1916, with the result that the number of registrations recorded in 1916 was 96,933, which is the highest record since the amalgamation of Berar with the Central Provinces. A variety of causes have contributed to the recovery made in 1916, the principal one being the restoration of confidence shaken by the first shock of war among all classes and the consequent resumption of business as usual. The increase is noticeable both among compulsory and optional registration. Registrations affecting moveable property showed a slight decline, but there was a rise in the

REGISTRATION

number of wills and authorities to adopt. The aggregate value of property affected by all registrations rose from 206 to 210 lakhs in the Central Provinces and from 252 to 358 lakhs in Berar; for the combined area, the rise was 24 per cent in value as against a rise of 20 per cent in the number of registrations. The number of registrations, both compulsory and optional, affecting immoveable property only, rose both in Central Provinces and Berar. The value of immoveable property affected by registration rose in much greater proportion than the number of registrations affecting this form of property, and this seems to indicate a continuous increase in the value of land. The number of orders filed under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act was 159 and 181 in 1916 as compared with 640 and 803 in 1915, indicating the resumption of business on normal lines not necessitating a resort to State aid. As regards transfers of agricultural holdings, sale-deeds of land held in proprietary rights rose from 1,271 to 1,364, while mortgages decreased slightly from 1,552 to 1,523. Sale-deeds of malik-makbuza plots and absolute-occupancy holdings rose again from 3,627 to 4,143, but mortgages slightly declined from 3,835 to 3,802. The total income of the Department rose from Rs. 3,42,090 in 1915 to Rs. 4,21,100 in 1916. The expenditure in 1916 increased to Rs. 1,27,440 as against Rs. 1,24,300 in 1915, but the percentage on income fell from 36 in 1915 to 30 in 1916. The system of thumb-impressions has continued to work satisfactorily and inspections of offices have been generally adequate. A much-needed reform was the reorganization of the Department, proposals for which were sanctioned with effect from the 1st April 1917. The principal features of the scheme are the substitution of consolidated and increased pay for Sub-Registrars, for the troublesome and intricate system of remuneration partly by salary and partly by commission, a rise in the rate of pay of Muharrirs and a large increase in the Muharrir establishment.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916-17 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

75. The number of Municipal Committees remained unchanged during the year but there were some changes in constitution; at Damoh four members were added to the Committee; at Hoshangabad two representatives instead of one were sanctioned in two wards, and in Dhamtari the number of nominated members was increased from three to five. All Committees, except three, held the prescribed number of meetings. Attendance at meetings was on the whole satisfactory. The triennial election system continued in the Central Provinces, and the question of its extension to Berar is under consideration. The amount of interest taken in Municipal elections is, generally speaking, distinctly on the increase.

Income.

76. The total Municipal income, excluding Extraordinary and Debt heads rose from Rs. 32,90,763 to Rs. 34,23,390, but, excluding Government contributions, the real local income fell from Rs. 27,84,564 to Rs. 27,76,325. This slight fall in income is due to fluctuations in trade owing to war and to the outbreak of plague in important towns of the Province. The terminal tax, which was in force in two Municipal Committees, was introduced during the year in the Harda, Narsinghpur and Amraoti Town Municipalities; and since the close of the year its introduction has been sanctioned for Betul and Murwara. The all-round incidence of taxation fell in the Central Provinces from Rs. 2-5-2 to Rs. 2-3-11 and rose in Berar from Rs. 1-9-3 to Rs. 1-12-7. Government contributions, which amounted to Rs. 6,47,065, made up about 19 per cent of the total Municipal income. Nearly two-thirds of the total contribution represents grants for sanitary purposes to Nagpur and Harda Municipalities for drainage schemes and to Nagpur, Akola, Damoh, Amraoti Camp and Arvi Municipalities for water-supply projects. Educational grants, recurring and non-recurring, amounted to Rs. 1,79,544, of which Rs. 65,143 was granted for expenditure on primary school buildings.

Expenditure.

77. The opening balance of all Municipalities was Rs. 10,92,903 at the beginning of the year; receipts amounted to Rs. 40,09,394 and expenditure to Rs. 38,97,397, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 12,04,900. All Municipalities,

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

except three, show balances in excess of the prescribed minima. In most Municipalities the surplus balances have been accumulated for specific objects. The capital outlay on water-works rose by Rs. 1,77,000 as a result of the progress made on the works at Arvi, Akola and Damoh. The Harda drainage scheme has been completed and the Nagpur scheme is nearing completion. The expenditure on conservancy and sanitation amounted to Rs. 5,95,173. Progress was made in the improvement of private latrines and opening of congested areas in some Municipalities, but large schemes of town sanitation had to be temporarily abandoned on account of lack of funds and the prohibitive cost of iron materials. The expenditure on education was Rs. 5,08,688. The question of the levy of a special Education Cess under the Municipal Act and the introduction of compulsory education in Municipal areas is under the consideration of the Administration.

Loans.

78. The amount advanced during the year was Rs. 3,21,000 against Rs. 3,87,000 in the previous year. One lakh was advanced to the Nagpur Municipality as the seventh instalment of the loan of eight lakhs sanctioned for its drainage scheme; Rs. 36,000 was advanced to Arvi, Rs. 90,000 to Damoh and Rs. 95,000 to Akola for new water-works. At the end of the year eighteen Municipalities and one Notified Area were indebted to Government, and the total loan outstanding was Rs. 28,57,948. The finances of all towns which have taken loans are satisfactory.

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS

DISTRICT COUNCILS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916-17 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

79. There was no change in the number of Councils and Boards or in the sanctioned number of members. The Berar Rural Boards Law, so far as it relates to the formation of local administrative areas and qualifications of electors and members, has been amended and election rules are being framed All Councils and Boards held the prescribed number of meetings, with the exception of four Local and two Zamindari Boards. The provincial average of attendance of non-official members at the meetings of District Councils and Boards fell from 46 to 41, the prevalence of plague and the apathy of members being responsible for the decline.

Income and expenditure.

80. Income and expenditure, excluding debt heads, showed a decrease of Rs. 13,000 and Rs. 2,19,000 respectively. The principal decrease in income was half a lakh under Local Rates and Rs. 29,000 under Civil works, counterbalanced by increases under Cattle-pounds, Education and Medical. The Government contributions amounted to nearly 15¼ lakhs, or 41 per cent of the total income, of which over 9½ lakhs were assigned for Education and 5¼ lakhs for Civil works. In the aggregate the total balances at the end of the year under report were less by Rs. 68,000 than those at the end of the previous year. The total expenditure on education rose by Rs. 15,000 in Central Provinces and remained practically stationary in Berar. There was an increase of 18 Primary and 9 Middle Schools for the Province as a whole. The expenditure on Civil works was Rs. 17,18,000. Reports on the working of the Divisional Local Fund Engineers' Scheme are more favourable this year, but the ultimate retention or development of the scheme awaits the report of the Public Works Committee appointed by the Government of India. The expenditure on conservancy amounted to Rs. 29,000; a provincial grant of half a lakh was made for improving water-supply in rural areas and a special grant of Rs. 25,000 was made for improving water-supply at fairs and on roads leading to them. The new Local Self-Government Act, providing for the levy of local taxation, has been introduced in the Legislative Council.

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

81. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles were the only Volunteer Corps in the Province. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles in 1916-17 numbered 1,269 as against 1,331 in 1915-16. The numbers enrolled during the year were 153, and 215 were struck off. The

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

falling off was due to a continuance of the weeding out of men found to be unfit. There were 37 Officers in the Corps. Of the total strength of the Corps, 1,176 were extra-efficient, 83 were efficient and 10 non-efficient. Marksmen numbered 389 as against 381 in the previous year. There were 81 Reservists, all of whom were efficient. The annual Camp-of-Exercise was held from the 18th to the 28th January 1917; the average number actually living in Camp was 413 as against 520 during the last Camp of 1916. The Corps was inspected by the Chief Commissioner and by the General Officer Commanding the Jubbulpore Brigade, both of whom expressed themselves as generally satisfied. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles.

82. The total enrolled strength of the 2nd Battalion, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps, which has its head-quarters at Nagpur, was 591 as against 594 in the previous year. Of this number, 13 Officers and 255 men were employed in the Central Provinces. 207 were extra-efficient, 266 efficient and only 2 were non-efficient, while Marksmen numbered 107. There were 34 Reservists, all of whom were efficient. The annual Camp-of-Exercise was held at Jharsuguda between the 4th and 17th February 1917, and the Corps was inspected by Colonel Shephard, D.S.O., who expressed himself well pleased with what he saw. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE

[Report on the working of the Department of Agriculture of the Central Provinces for the year 1916-17.]

Agriculture.

83. The activities of the Department were again limited by lack of staff. During the year under report one Deputy Director and the Agricultural Chemist proceeded on military duty and the only Assistant Director was permitted to resign the service on account of ill health. The expenditure during the agricultural year ending the 30th June 1917 was Rs. 4,73,861 as compared with Rs. 4,50,086 in the previous year. The increase in expenditure is under all heads, except experimental farms, the expenditure under which was swelled last year by special items connected with the Betul and Sindewahi Farms. During the year three new posts of Extra-Assistant Directors of Agriculture were filled. Though actual expansion was not possible owing to the circumstances of the year, much preparatory work was done to permit of a rapid advance when normal conditions are restored.

Agricultural education.

84. Work at the Agricultural College was badly handicapped by a severe outbreak of plague in the neighbourhood. The parallel working of the old and new curricula entailed the teaching of considerably more agriculture and less science than usual and was a heavy strain on the staff. The want of a separate Agricultural Engineer and a Veterinary Instructor was felt. The College Hostel has been greatly improved and can now accommodate 110 students in comfort. The question of agricultural education generally among the cultivating classes has been carefully considered, and a well-defined line has been taken in the proposal to establish special boarding-schools for the sons of land-owners at the principal experimental farms, and it is hoped to establish two such institutions during the current year.

The publication of the "Agricultural and Co-operative Gazette" continued throughout the year. A second edition of the hand-book of agricultural leaflets was issued. Leaflets on sugarcane, manufacture of *gur* and orange cultivation were issued in the Southern Circle.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

85. Experimental work has continued in the eleven experimental farms under the Department. At the Nagpur Farm the unfavourable circumstances of the year, *viz.*, heavy and continued rainfall, reduced the value of all experiments in tillage, cultivation and rotation. Experiments at the newly established Chandkhuri Farm in Raipur are of great importance. The cultivation of *bhata* lands (thin gravelly laterite), aided by manure and irrigation, with groundnut, cotton and cane has been a remarkable success. The cultivation of long-staple cotton at the Kawardha Farm has not been successful and it has been decided to hand over this farm to the Feudatory Chief. It is situated in a remote locality and is difficult of supervision. At the Akola Farm several experiments were vitiated by the excessive rainfall, but the superiority of *roseum* cotton was again established. A separate seed-room and a small field laboratory have been sanctioned for the Economic Botanist during the year. The work of the Agricultural Chemist was carried on under difficulties owing to uncertainty in the supply of chemicals and apparatus; 83 general analyses were made, chiefly of oil-cakes and seeds, manures and oils; and paper pulp was produced on a laboratory scale from green cotton stalks.

The importance and bulk of demonstration work is steadily increasing and the service of Agricultural Assistants is being expanded as trained men become available. Demonstration work with regard to the improvement of cultivation of rice and cane, the production of better varieties of wheat and groundnut and the extension of fruit cultivation was carried on in the Nagpur Division. In the Northern Circle the expansion of demonstration work has been remarkable.

The area of certified seed farms has risen from 6,075 to 6,572 acres, and the demonstration plots in charge of trained field-men continued to do admirable work. In Berar ten new cotton seed unions were registered and 192 new seed farms started, bringing the total to 25 registered and 26 unregistered unions and 513 seed farms. The demand for improved implements still grows, and good progress was made in the sale of implements through the Department.

Cattle-breeding farms had a successful year. The Telinkheri Cattle Farm at Nagpur was transferred to the new breeding farm on the Raigarh Plateau of the Balaghat District. The Khandwa Society in the Raipur District was reorganised. The College dairy carried on much useful experimental work under the close supervision of the College staff. The co-operative dairy at Telinkheri continued to develope and bids fair to help towards the solution of the milk supply of towns.

District Associations.

86. In the Western Circle, Taluq Agricultural Associations numbered 32, comprising the most go-ahead land-holders of each taluq, and their work was laid down for them at a conference over which the Commissioner of Berar presided. The District and Taluq Associations continued to do good work everywhere.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1 (*a*)—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916-17 and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

Co-operative Societies.

87. The agricultural conditions of the year were generally unfavourable to the cotton districts on account of the heavy rainfall in September and October, but they were beneficial to the wheat-growing districts, where, however, the continued rain in the hot weather made the threshing of the crop difficult and its transport to the local market at times impossible. On the whole, circumstances were favourable to co-operation and the year witnessed substantial progress and expansion. The number of societies of all descriptions increased from 2,685 to 3,627, membership from 60,538 to 95,633 and working capital from Rs. 87,09,187 to Rs. 1,27,33,824. Among the societies are numbered 13 War Loan Associations, representing a portion of the support afforded to the Indian War Loan by the co-operative movement, whose total contribution exceeded twenty-four lakhs. The total combined Government and non-official expenditure on the co-operative department amounted to Rs. 2,12,079 against Rs. 1,73,365 in 1915-16, but at the same time the turn-over also increased. On the turn-over the total cost of administration works out at ·63 per cent as against ·66 in 1915-16 and ·8 in 1914-15. The comparative cost of administration shows a distinct tendency to decline.

Working of Central Societies, Provincial and Central Banks.

88. The working capital of the Provincial Bank rose from Rs. 16,78,402 to Rs. 24,21,677. Central Banks repaid to the Provincial Bank during the year Rs. 7,71,488 in cash. The deposits with the Provincial Bank show a further increase this year, amounting to Rs. 15,38,371 against Rs. 13,35,231. The total fluid resources of the Bank are about 12 lakhs of rupees. A dividend of 5 per cent was proposed to be paid, and the Bank is in an exceptionally sound financial position. The Provincial Federation of Co-operative Banks maintained proper discipline. An extension of the powers of this Federation and the election of a non-official as Governor were contemplated. Two new Central Banks were registered during the year. The total working capital of all the Central Banks amounted to Rs. 50,51,622 as against Rs. 36,20,726, the share capital increased from Rs. 8,00,687 to Rs. 10,78,373 and deposits from Rs. 16,17,709 to Rs. 21,93,714; a sum of Rs. 22,610 has been added to the reserve funds. The Banks have continued to gain in financial strength.

Agricultural Unions for production and sale.

89. These societies are practically confined to Seed Unions and there were 41 registered societies as against 24 during the previous year. The Cotton Unions in the Western Circle had difficulties to contend with owing to the bad cotton crop. The cattle-breeding societies in the Southern Circle showed marked success. The Seed Unions in the Northern Circle also prospered, and the sales of improved agricultural implements by Central Banks in the same Circle are distinctly encouraging.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Agricultural Societies, Unlimited.

90. The conditions of the year were favourable to the expansion of agricultural credit societies owing to the tightness in the money market caused by War conditions, the uncertainty of the future and the issue of the Indian War Loan. The number of societies rose from 2,412 to 3,267, the number of members from 40,998 to 52,757 and the working capital from Rs. 32,57,634 to Rs. 48,11,831. The savings deposits of members with their own societies rose from Rs. 1,27,622 to Rs. 1,43,679. The total owned capital of agricultural societies represents a percentage of 18 on the total working capital.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit Limited.

91. There were seven societies with 972 members, and, with the exception of one society, all worked satisfactorily and showed distinct progress.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit Unlimited.

92. At the close of the year there were 82 societies of this class with 1,065 members and Rs. 51,179 as working capital. This year has witnessed no improvement in the position of industrial societies generally, and the majority of them are either in liquidation or about to be liquidated. The small workers, who constitute these societies, appear to be too conservative and do not seem to possess the necessary degree of honesty or the co-operative spirit.

Resources.

93. The Provincial Bank increased its deposit and reserve fund. The Central Banks were in a sound financial position. The reserve fund of all banks and societies amounted on 30th June 1917 to Rs. 5,14,975 as against Rs. 3,77,647 at the close of last year. The overdraft with the Allahabad Bank was Rs. 5,14,806; against this the Provincial Bank had placed in deposit with the Allahabad Bank a sum of Rs. 3,14,738, while a sum of Rs. 8,93,540 was invested outside the co-operative business. The fluid resources amounted to over seven and a quarter lakhs, not including the balance of cash credit with the Allahabad Bank of Rs. 4,85,194.

1 (*b*)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department, Central Provinces, for the year ending the 31st March 1917.]

Veterinary Department.

94. Outbreaks of contagious diseases reported rose from 4,809 during the previous year to 8,662 during the year under report; the much higher number of outbreaks reported may be ascribed to better reporting as a result of the revised rules promulgated last year rather than to any increase in the incidence of disease. The number of deaths reported was 19,894 as against 12,267. Rinderpest accounted for 11,906 deaths as against 3,896 in the previous year. Inoculation has been proved to be the best remedy, as it reduces mortality to just under one-half per cent. The number of cases treated by the Veterinary Assistants and Inspectors showed a gratifying increase from 267,676 to 338,160, indicating not merely hard work on the part of the Department but also a growing confidence in it on the part of the people; for the character of the year cannot be held entirely responsible for the large increase in figures. The number of dispensaries increased by one to 81. The pressing need for more veterinary institutions cannot be met owing to financial stringency. The Department worked in close co-operation with the Agriculture Department, and 45 sanads were granted to agriculturists in recognition of their services in popularizing inoculation and the castration of bulls by the English method.

95. The expenditure incurred by the Department during the year was Rs. 2,13,228 as against Rs. 2,21,288 in the previous year. Some minor building works were carried out, and an excellent set of buildings for a hospital was constructed and gifted by a Zamindar. As a result of the revised rates of pay, recruitment was satisfactory, and 17 graduates of Veterinary Colleges were admitted into the Department.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916-17; area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1916-17; and Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Rainfall.

96. The monsoon of 1916 broke in these Provinces in the first week of June and gave good and generally well-distributed rain throughout the Province. Ploughing of fields and sowing of autumn crops were started at an early date. Moderate to heavy rain fell in July and August and continued up to the end of October. Excessive rain in August slightly damaged and stunted the growth of cotton and juar plants in parts of the Vindhyan and Berar Districts and in Wardha and Nagpur, and heavy rain in October caused further damage to cotton and juar and retarded the harvesting of kharif and the sowing of rabi crops. Good showers were received in the first week of November. The months of December and January were practically rainless, and the weather was clear and cool and the prospect of the spring crops by the end of January was excellent. During the first fortnight of February and last week of March light to moderate showers were received. In April the weather was warm and cloudy with local hail-storms, and though some damage was caused to crops in flower by cloudy weather, hail caused no serious damage. Light to moderate rain received in May hampered harvesting and threshing operations of the spring crops and slightly damaged grain lying on the threshing floor. The average rainfall during the year in the Central Provinces was 60·79 inches as compared with 48·35, the average of 49 years. For Berar the total rainfall during the year averaged 54·28 inches as against 32·07, the average of 23 years. The rainfall was above the average in all districts, except Saugor, where it was normal, and Raipur and Drug, where it was somewhat less than the average.

Character of the season.

97. The kharif area of the Central Provinces declined by 371,961 acres (3 per cent) as compared with the previous year. In Berar also the area shrank by 201,000 acres (3 per cent). Heavy and continuous rain at and succeeding the sowing time mainly accounts for the contraction in area, and a good deal of heavy kharif land was reploughed and sown with spring crops. Owing to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time the area under rice expanded by 2 per cent. Juar, on the other hand, contracted by 17 per cent in the Central Provinces and 16 per cent in Berar. Expansion of the area under cotton and replacement of spoilt juar by other crops mainly accounted for the decrease. The area under cotton expanded by 20 per cent in the Central Provinces and 10 per cent in Berar, as a result of the favourable conditions at the actual sowing time and the high price fetched by cotton in the preceding year. The shrinkage in the area of til was due to continuous and heavy rain at sowing time. The rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar taken together increased by 8 per cent. The heavy and prolonged rains, which led to the substitution of spring crops for spoilt kharif, account for the rise. The total irrigated area rose slightly by 9,244 acres (2 per cent). It decreased by 6,319 acres in Berar and by 62,766 acres in Nagpur, Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisions, the copious rains making irrigation unnecessary. In the Chhattisgarh Division alone there was a large increase, irrigation from Government canals and tanks advancing from 45,142 acres in 1915-16 to 120,771 acres in 1916-17, as a result of the opening of the Mahanadi Canal.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

98. *Rice.*—The meteorological conditions at sowing time were favourable to this crop and germination was successful. Transplantation and thinning operations were retarded a little in four districts owing to short rainfall, while excessive rain caused some damage in a few districts. The total yield for both Central Provinces and Berar of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 101 and 109, respectively, against 114 and 128 in the previous year.

Juar.—Rainfall was much too heavy for this crop and much damage was caused all over the Province. The outturn for the whole Province was 71 against 112 in 1915-16.

Cotton.—Sowings were successful and germination satisfactory, but heavy and continuous rain and the absence of sunshine damaged the crop and stunted its growth. The outturn for the whole Province was 78 against 103 in the previous year.

Til.—The area under til fell by 26 per cent in the Central Provinces and 14 per cent in Berar. Heavy and continuous rains damaged the crop and much of it was ploughed up and the land sown with spring crops. The outturn for the Province was a little over three-fourths of a normal crop.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

Wheat.—The area under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces stood at 3,638,071 acres against 3,346,331 acres in the preceding year, an increase of 9 per cent. The conditions of the year were on the whole favourable to the crop, and damage caused in some districts by the cloudy weather and hail was slight. Four districts reaped a full crop, and in the remaining the outturn ranged from 95 to 111 in American notation. The yield for the whole Province was 109 per cent of a normal crop against 100 in 1915-16.

Linseed.—The area under this crop increased by 17 per cent in the Central Provinces and 2 per cent in Berar. Re-sowing was necessary in a few districts; otherwise sowing was done under favourable conditions and germination was good. Adverse climatic conditions, rust and insects caused damage in a few districts. The outturn for the whole Province is a little higher than that of 1915-16, which was 96 per cent.

3—HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE

[Comments by the Director of Agriculture on the return of expenditure of the Provincial and District Gardens in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 30th June 1917.]

Provincial Gardens.

99. The year as a whole was cool and wet and very suitable for vegetable growth generally, though the heavy and continued rainfall of the monsoon season was not without its disadvantages, causing damage to the early vegetable crop in the Pachmarhi Garden and delaying the sowing of English vegetables. At the Maharajbagh Gardens several new varieties of oranges and mangoes were tried. Black Hamburg and Esparone vines did well and gave a few bunches of delicious fruit. The quality of the fruit grown in the Pachmarhi Gardens was good, peaches and plums in particular being excellent. The receipts for all Provincial Gardens were well maintained, but the expenditure has tended to increase. The net expenditure on the Provincial Gardens and the Nagpur Recreation ground amounted to Rs. 21,092. At the Maharajbagh Gardens, the corner at Sitabaldi was newly laid out, while at the Telinkheri Garden extensive repairs were made to the plant-house and a new lawn was laid down.

District Gardens.

100. As a measure of economy and because in many places good vegetables are available in the local market, an arrangement has been arrived at by which District Gardens have in most cases given up the cultivation of vegetables entirely, but the gardens are still being maintained as pleasure grounds and for supplying fruits and cut-flowers, plants, and, in some cases, flower seeds. The expenditure has been reduced from Rs. 27,604 to Rs. 24,651, while the receipts have risen from Rs. 11,762 to Rs. 13,699. All District Gardens were managed economically and efficiently.

4—FORESTS

FORESTS

[Review of the Forest Administration Reports of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles of the Central Provinces for the year 1916-17 and Statistical Abstract, Volume II, Financial.]

Forest areas.

101. The total area of forest under the control of the Forest Department was 19,672 square miles, an increase of 6 square miles over the previous year's figure. This increase was mainly due to a recalculation of the forest area in the South Raipur Division. In the Berar Circle, A Class forests increased by 5 square miles owing to transfers from G and H lands and exchange of areas, while C Class

forests showed a decrease of 4 square miles, due almost entirely to disforestments. During the year 8·77 square miles of forest area were finally settled and operations were in progress in respect of 7·24 square miles at the close of the year.

Demarcation and Survey.

102. The total length of boundaries decreased during the year by 76 miles. The reduction was due to changes in forest areas and exchanges of lands, and to the fact that in the Betul Division 42 miles of boundary of areas previously disforested were wrongly shown on the registers. The total expenditure on demarcation work rose from Rs. 13,089 in 1915-16 to Rs. 18,399 in the year under report. The Government of India Survey Party worked in part of the Balaghat Division. The survey of forest villages by local agency was continued in the Southern Circle, where 11 villages in all were surveyed.

Working-plans.

103. During the year new working-plans for the mixed forests of the Balaghat Division and the entire forests of the Melghat Division were sanctioned. The revised working-plans for the South and North Raipur Divisions are still under consideration. Out of the total area of State forest of 19,672 square miles, sanctioned working-plans exist for an area of 15,788 square miles, or 80 per cent; new plans are being prepared for 1,309 square miles, while for an area of 57 square miles plans have still to be taken in hand; no plans are considered necessary for 2,518 square miles, which are mostly B and C Class forests.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

104. The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 89,979 as compared with Rs. 40,795 in 1915-16. The large increase is due to the abnormally low expenditure of the previous year. The expenditure on new works was Rs. 53,997, and it is satisfactory to note that as much as Rs. 49,033 was spent on regular cart roads. Rs. 35,982 was spent on the repairs of 5,776 miles of roads. The total expenditure on buildings was Rs. 64,696, of which Rs. 27,905 was spent on new works. The greater part of this expenditure (82 per cent) was for quarters of the subordinate establishment. The expenditure on tanks, wells and other minor works rose from Rs. 11,564 to Rs. 16,547, principally due to the greater number of wells constructed.

Forest offences.

105. The total number of forest offences rose from 13,937 in 1915-16 to 14,046 in 1916-17; the majority of the offences were under unauthorised grazing (53·6 per cent) and unauthorised felling (39·9 per cent). Of the total number of cases to be dealt with, 1·3 per cent were taken to Court, 85·7 per cent were compounded, 3·8 per cent were undetected and 9·2 per cent remained pending at the close of the year. Of the 200 cases taken to Court, convictions were secured in 146 cases and the sentences were as a rule adequate. Of the 13,343 cases compounded, compensation was recovered in 13,334 cases, 9 being acquitted. The average compensation realised per case and per person was Rs. 7-1-4 and Rs. 2-11-9 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 7-13-1 and Rs. 2-10-2 in the Southern Circle and Rs. 12-12-1 and Rs. 3-12-7 in the Berar Circle.

Protection from fire.

106. The area attempted to be protected from fire showed a further decrease from 10,920 to 10,336 square miles and the total expenditure incurred was Rs. 94,085. The adoption of the policy of "early burning" largely accounts for the decrease in the area under protection. Ninety-nine per cent of the area was successfully protected from fire. The average cost of protection for the Province as a whole was Rs. 9-1-7 as against Rs. 9-4-7 in 1915-16.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

107. The area worked by systematic fellings was 200,321 acres. The total number of animals grazed in Government forests fell from 3,645,032 in 1915-16 to 3,581,780 in the year under report. This is ascribed mainly to better rainfall and the resorting of some cattle to raiyatwari areas and Jagir forests. Of the total animals grazed during the year, 1,581,864 grazed at full rates, 1,732,682 at privileged rates and 267,234 grazed free. The grazing incidence for the Province as a whole was 2·9 acres per animal as against 2·8 acres in the preceding year. The actual revenue derived from grazing in Government forests fell slightly to Rs. 13,21,424. Had all the animals been charged full rates of grazing royalty, the total value of grazing would have amounted to Rs. 23,80,648. Transit fees and surtax in the A Class forests of Berar brought in

Rs. 61,328, and Rs. 3,159 was levied on buffaloes grazing in the raiyatwari wastes of the Melghat Division. Thus, the total income on grazing shows an increase of Rs. 2,864. The outturn of major produce increased by 1,349,000 cubic feet, the increase being both under timber and fuel. The total value of all minor forest produce extracted amounted to Rs. 7,50,928, an increase of Rs. 67,239 over the previous year. Lac, bamboos, fodder and rusa grass showed an increase, while harra showed a decrease. Operations for the supply of fodder grass for the Army Department were undertaken during the year. 20,000 tons was asked for; 21,000 tons was cut, and of this 18,160 tons was accepted as suitable fodder by the military authorities.

Financial results.

108. The gross revenue and expenditure for the year were Rs. 34,10,595 and Rs. 17,90,682 respectively, giving a net revenue of Rs. 16,19,913 as compared with the net revenue of Rs. 15,25,729 in the previous year.

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916 and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

Collieries.

109. The number of collieries decreased from 12 to 11 during the year under report. The output, however, rose from 253,118 tons in 1915 to 287,832 tons, valued at Rs. 11,70,299, in 1916. The Chhindwara Collieries and the Durgapur Colliery in Chanda show an increased outturn, while both the Ballarpur and the Mohpani Collieries show a decrease. The Provincial average value of coal fell from Rs. 4-4-6 to Rs. 4-1-0 per ton. As usual, the Mohpani coal fetched the highest price (Rs. 5-2-4 per ton).

Manganese Mining.

110. The output of manganese rose from 352,969 tons to 517,090 tons. The increase was distributed over all the principal manganese districts and was due to the strong demand for manganese for the manufacture of munitions and war materials for British and French steel works and for those American firms which signed the British agreement. The Provincial average price of the ore rose from Rs. 4-2-0 to Rs. 8-8-1 per ton. Although much of the increase was swallowed up by heavy freights and working expenses, and some of the less favourably circumstanced mines made profits little above their average, the future of the industry seems firmly secured for some years to come. The number of employees in the manganese mines rose from 8,903 in 1915 to 13,350 during the year under report.

Miscellaneous.

111. Although the number of limestone quarries remained the same, there was a further fall of 17,000 tons in the output of stone, which is due mainly to freight difficulties, as the average price remained the same as in 1915, *viz.*, Rs. 1-2-0 per ton. The Agargaon Mine in Nagpur yielded about 1¼ tons of wolfram and the Pali Mine gave 12 tons of pyrolusite. Quarries were opened in the Jubbulpore District for soapstone and red oxide of iron, and mining for bauxite continued on a small scale. In the Nagpur Division the supply of labour was, as usual, inadequate and labour had to be imported. There was no material change in the rates of wages. The health and physical condition of the workers in mining camps was generally good. There were 28 accidents against 25 in 1915. Of these, 9 were fatal and 19 serious. Most of the accidents were found on inquiry to be due to carelessness on the part of workers rather than to any defect in the management. There were no prosecutions under the Mines Act. Inspections were, as a rule, adequate.

6—MANUFACTURES

MANUFACTURES

[Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916 and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number of Factories, Employees, Accidents.

112. The total number of factories for the year 1916 was 447 as compared with 450 for the previous year. The total average daily number of operatives was 49,459 as compared with 48,846 reported in the previous year, the increase being chiefly due to the additional labour required by the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore. There was a general rise in the average rates of wages both for

MANUFACTURES

skilled and unskilled labour, due to the scarcity of labour and the higher cost of living. The number of accidents during the year was 213 against 217 for the previous year; only four accidents were fatal and 55 serious; most of the accidents were due to lack of knowledge on the part of operatives. The sanitary arrangements and the general health of employees were on the whole satisfactory.

Prosecutions. Supervision.

113. The Indian Factories Act was administered with care. There were 51 prosecutions, of which 49 resulted in conviction, and in most cases adequate and deterrent sentences were passed. The total number of inspections was 877 as against 1,003 in the previous year. Owing to the irregular working of some of the seasonal factories, 31 of them remained uninspected throughout the year.

TRADE

7—TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1917 and Volume of Prices and Wages in India.]

General.

114. The total rail-borne traffic of the year under report, omitting animals and treasure, amounted to just under 70¼ million maunds, valued at 38¼ crores of rupees, as compared with 70¼ million maunds and 35½ crores of rupees in 1915-16. Thus, the total trade increased by 2¾ crores of rupees, or just under 8 per cent. The trade of the Province mainly depends on its agriculture, and the crops which directly influenced the returns for the year were the spring crops of 1915-16 and the autumn crops of 1916-17. The rabi area for both Central Provinces and Bear increased by 171,032 acres. The area under wheat showed a large rise, while that under linseed contracted owing to adverse climatic conditions at sowing time and to the extension of wheat cultivation. The estimated outturn of wheat was 100 per cent and of linseed 96 per cent. The kharif area for the whole Province contracted by 3 per cent. The area under cotton and rice showed an increase, while that under juar fell considerably. Heavy and continuous rains caused much damage, and, while rice gave a normal outturn, juar, cotton and til gave only three-fourths of a normal crop. The price of wheat fell to, and remained steady at, a little more than the pre-war rate. Cotton prices ruled very high, and the average of the year exceeded that of the pre-war year 1912-13, heavy Japanese purchases being responsible for this. Rice, juar and gram dropped to almost pre-war levels and linseed and til were selling far cheaper than in 1912-13. The trade of the Province, as a whole, for the year was distinctly good, and the net balance in its favour was over six million pounds sterling.

Imports.

115. Imports increased in value from 13¾ crores to about 14¼ crores of rupees. Imports of coal and coke fell in bulk from nearly 16 to under 12½ million maunds. The value of kerosine oil imports rose by 22 per cent, which alone is indicative of the all-round prosperity of the Province in spite of the war. The imports of salt rose by 13 per cent in value, although they decreased by 5 per cent in bulk. The fall in the imports of sugar (9 per cent in value) is due to the excessive imports of last year. The imports of manufactured goods rose by 2 per cent in value, but the actual weight of these goods imported decreased by 15 per cent.

Exports.

116. Exports increased in value from 21¾ crores of rupees to nearly 24 crores of rupees. The principal increases were under manufactured cotton, grain and pulse, manganese and provisions. The value of raw cotton exported fell form about 10¾ crores to about 9½ crores of rupees. The actual decrease in bulk was from over 5 to 3¼ million maunds. This was due to the inferiority of the cotton crop of 1916-17, its late harvesting and the fact that last year's figures of exports were inflated by stocks held up in 1914-15 for a better price. The rise in the exports of manufactured cotton was 45 per cent in weight and 62 per cent in value, and indicates the great activity of the local mills. The export of manganese ore rose from 470 to 522 thousand tons as a result of the demand for munition purposes. The trade in *ghi* exceeded all previous records, the value of exports for the last four years having been 13, 14, 24 and nearly 42 lakhs respectively. Coal and coke exports show a rise of 265 per cent. This fact, coupled with the decrease of 3¼ million maunds of coal imports, indicates the

development of the collieries of the Central Provinces. The considerable increase in the area under wheat and rice enabled a larger amount of grain to be exported from the Province.

8—PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS

[Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for the year 1916-17 and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

Public Works.

117. The principal feature of the administration of the Roads and Buildings Branch of the Public Works Department during the year 1916-17 was general economy so far as was found compatible with carrying on important road construction. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 65,84,446 as against Rs. 77,05,719 in the previous year, a reduction of more than eleven lakhs. The expenditure on Imperial works was Rs. 80,013, on Provincial works Rs. 56,24,045 and on Contribution works Rs. 8,78,536.

Imperial Works.

118. Certain subsidiary works in connection with the General Post Office and the Postal and Telegraph Audit Offices in Nagpur were carried out at a cost of Rs. 67,372. The construction of the combined office and residence at Raipur for the Superintendent of Post Offices, Chhattisgarh Division, which was in progress last year, was completed at a cost of Rs. 15,658.

Provincial Works.

119. Of the total expenditure on Provincial works, Rs. 23,67,907 were spent on original works, the balance being spent on the maintenance and repair of existing roads and buildings, establishment and plant. Details of some of the Provincial works are given below.

Buildings.

120. The expenditure on Land Revenue buildings was Rs. 85,470. New Tahsil buildings were completed at Hinganghat and Raipur and work on the Tahsil building at Waraseoni was well advanced.

Expenditure for the Excise Department was Rs. 43,246. A bonded warehouse at Ahiri and a new liquor room to the distillery at Sausar were completed, and the work of constructing five bonded warehouses at different places was in hand.

Rs. 2,59,303 was spent on the construction of buildings for the Police Department.

Notwithstanding stringent measures adopted for the curtailment of expenditure on other works, the expenditure on Educational buildings amounted to Rs. 4,11,809. The buildings in connection with the Jubbulpore College and the Chanda High School were completed. The construction of the High Schools at Khamgaon, Saugor and Betul, hostels for the High School at Damoh and for the Female Normal School at Jubbulpore, and a Girls' High School at Amraoti were in progress.

The expenditure for the Department of Law and Justice amounted to Rs. 1,74,198. Additions and alterations were carried out to the District Courts at Mandla and Seoni and work was started on the extension to the District Court at Bilaspur. A new Civil Court at Narsinghpur was completed and good progress made on the one at Mandla.

The expenditure on hospitals, dispensaries and asylums was Rs. 1,19,403. The Central Vaccine Depôt and the Robertson Medical School buildings were practically completed. Work was in progress in connection with the improvements to the Asylum and to the Mayo Hospital at Nagpur.

Communications.

121. The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 26,84,484, of which Rs. 10,22,949 was laid out on original works and the rest on repairs. The section of the Amraoti-Nagpur road in the Wardha District has made considerable progress, and construction was commenced on the Anjangaon-Akot road. The erection of submerged and high level bridges over the numerous rivers, which form such an obstacle to communication in the Provinces, was proceeded with.

A sum of Rs. 68,839 was spent on Arboriculture, the expenditure being chiefly confined to the provision of efficient tree-guards and maintenance of the existing avenues.

Sanitary Works.

122. The work of certain improvements to the pumping station and head-works at Gorewara for the Nagpur Water-works was in progress. The head-works and service reservoir of the Akola Water-works have been constructed, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,16,279. The construction of the Arvi Water-works started in 1914 is nearing completion, and satisfactory progress was made with the Damoh Water-works. Projects for the improvements of the existing water-works of four towns are under consideration of the local authorities. There were 13 water-works in all under the management of the Public Works Department. The execution of drainage works was confined to the works in progress in connection with the Harda and Nagpur drainage projects. The work on the Nagpur City Drainage Scheme is making fair progress, and a total expenditure of Rs. 1,41,205 was incurred during the year. Further work on the Craddock Town surface drainage scheme is held in abeyance, as the type of drains to be adopted requires further consideration. The work on the surface drainage scheme at Harda is nearing completion.

Miscellaneous.

123. The construction of the Harsud-Balri road and the work of diverting the Wardha-Deoli road were undertaken for the District Councils and were in progress. The King Edward Memorial Hall at Drug was completed at a cost of Rs. 15,423. Certain improvements were carried out to the Elgin Hospital at Jubbulpore, the total cost being Rs. 11,229. The work of constructing a church at Khandwa was started during the year.

IRRIGATION

9—IRRIGATION

[Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for the year 1916-17 and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

Area under irrigation.

124. The monsoon rainfall of 1916 was generally copious and well distributed, though there was some shortage in the Eastern Circle during July. The total area irrigated during the year under report was 134,696 acres as compared with 52,300 acres for the previous year. The increase is mainly due to 70,145 acres having been irrigated from the Mahanadi canal; of this area, 42,387 acres were irrigated free of charge. The reduction in the charges for rabi irrigation and favourable rates for five-year agreements also contributed to the increase in area.

Major Works.

125. Good progress was made during the year with the works under construction. Work on the Sukha dam of the Tandula canal made better progress than in the previous year, and it was expected to commence irrigation during the kharif season of 1917. Owing to abnormal floods a portion of the dam of the Wainganga canal headworks was washed away. The dam was sufficiently restored on new lines before the rains broke to enable the canal to be worked, and further work is in progress. Work on the Mahanadi canal progressed satisfactorily. The headworks and left bank channel of the Bodalkassa Tank were completed, and work on other tanks and their distributaries steadily progressed.

Expenditure.

126. The grants and expenditure under the various fund heads were:—

Head of Account.	Grant.	Expenditure.
Imperial.	Rs.	Rs.
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	12,61,000	12,31,677
42.—Major Works—Working Expenses	1,28,000	1,17,227
49.—Productive Irrigation Works	14,31,000	13,23,695
Provincial.		
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	3,93,000	3,81,718
Deposits—Contribution	3,987	2,895
Total ...	32,16,987	30,57,212

The total expenditure is Rs. 30,57,212 as compared with Rs. 52,34,618 in the previous year, the decrease being mainly due to economy on account of the war.

Revenue.

127. During the year under report, five-year agreements at the low rate of Rs. 1-12-0 per acre were introduced in Chhattisgarh side by side with the one-year agreements at Rs. 2-8-0 per acre; the rate for rabi was reduced from Rs. 2 to Re. 1 per acre. These measures have had the effect of greatly increasing the area under irrigation. The total revenue demand for major and minor works amounted to Rs. 2,07,656, of which Rs. 1,90,853 was collected during the year.

General.

128. The experiments made by the Agricultural Department have been of great value to the spread of irrigation. At the Chandkhuri Farm in Raipur it has been shown that the yields of wheat, cotton, groundnuts and clover on the light *bhata* soils are far above normal when the land is properly manured and irrigated. Progress has been made with the introduction of thin sugarcanes, which require less water, and a rust-resisting variety of wheat which can be safely irrigated. The scope for extending scientific agriculture and irrigation is still very large, although considerable progress has already been made.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

129. The following statement compares the receipts and expenditure and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1915-16 and 1916-17 :—

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1916-17.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenue ...	1,26,70,373	1,35,55,843	71,21,180	62,36,711	..	...
Provincial Revenue ...	2,89,44,628	3,02,75,357	2,86,26,120	2,77,04,092	1,00,64,032	1,26,35,297
Deposits of Local Funds—						
Disrrict Funds ..	38,04,192	37,80,461	41,29,097	37,93,078	15,92,244	15,79,627
Jaglia and Local Cess Funds.	5,22,976	5,10,301	5,29,818	4,87,540	2,80,753	3,03,513
Other Local Funds ...	10,51,579	10,62,583	11,63,346	10,83,891	6,64,945	6,43,637
Municipal Funds ...	33,88,001	30,89,966	34,33,031	30,63,613	8,57,879	8,84,232
Total ...	5,03,81,749	5,22,74,511	4,50,02,592	4,23,68,925	1,34,59,853	1,60,46,306

REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL

130. The Imperial Revenue for the year 1916-17 showed an improvement of Rs. 8,85,470 as compared with that of the year 1915-16, while the expenditure of the year 1916-17 was less than that of the year 1915-16 by Rs. 8,84,469. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table :—

Revenue.	Actuals.			Expenditure.	Actuals.		
	1915-16.	1916-17.	Difference: more +, less —.		1915-16.	1916-17.	Difference: more +, less —.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue.	98,69,081	99,21,270	+52,189	1.—Refunds, etc. ...	57,828	39,490	—18,338
II.—Opium ...	4,70,013	5,77,671	+1,07,658	23.—Ecclesiastical ...	91,913	1,10,531	+18,618
IV.—Stamps ...	19,72,433	20,91,211	+1,18,778	35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works.	19,53,560	12,31,678	—7,21,882
V.—Excise ...	25,16,466	27,72,275	+2,55,809	42.—Major Works ...	87,118	1,17,227	+30,109
VII.—Customs ...	2,36,497	2,93,466	+56,969	42.—Interest on Debt.	7,91,011	8,62,630	+71,619
VIII.—Income-tax ...	4,73,912	6,60,407	+1,86,495	45.—Civil Works—Public Works Department.	9,42,501	6,59,543	—2,82,958
XXIX.—Major Irrigation Works.	1,03,150	1,37,698	+34,548	Other heads ...	31,97,249	32,15,612	+18,363
XXXI—Civil Works—Public Works Department.	73,098	51,205	—21,893				
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	—33,60,785	—32,39,165	+1,21,620				
Other heads ...	3,16,508	2,89,805	—26,703				
Total ...	1,26,70,373	1,35,55,843	+8,85,470	Total ...	71,21,180	62,36,711	—8,84,469

REVENUE.

131. I.—*Land Revenue (Imperial share one-half).*—The increase occurred mainly under the head "Miscellaneous Receipts from Quarries, etc."

II.—*Opium.*—The increase was due to the enhanced duty rates on Excise Opium.

IV.—*Stamps.*—The increases were under the heads "Sale of General Stamps" and "Sale of Court-fee Stamps" and were due to the remarkable recovery, especially in the last few months of the year 1916-17, from the economic depression caused by the war.

V.—*Excise.*—The increases occurred under the heads "Country Spirits, Still-head duty" and "Gain on Sale-proceeds of Excise Opium and other Drugs." The increase under the former head was chiefly due to the general improvement of economic conditions and to the fine crops in Berar, and that under the latter head to the enhanced duty rates on Excise Opium.

VII.—*Customs.*—The increase was mainly due to the revision of tariff rates from the 19th August 1916.

VIII.—*Income-tax.*—The improvement was chiefly due to the increase in the rate of the tax.

XXIX.—*Major Irrigation Works.*—The increase was due to extended irrigation partly from the Mahanadi and Wainganga Canals and partly from major tanks.

XXXI.—*Civil Works—Public Works Department.*—The actuals of 1915-16 included special items which were absent in the succeeding year, and hence the decrease.

Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.—The decrease was chiefly due to an assignment of Rs. 1,15,000 made from Provincial to Imperial in connection with the new scheme of taxation.

EXPENDITURE.

1.—*Refunds, etc.*—The decreases were under the heads "Excise" and "Customs." The actuals of the year 1915-16 included special items.

23.—*Ecclesiastical.*—The increase was chiefly under "Salaries," due to the reversion of a Chaplain from the Military Department. Payment of leave allowances also caused some increase.

35.—*Construction of Protective Irrigation Works.*—The decrease was due to curtailment of expenditure and to the scarcity of labour.

42.—*Major Works.*—The additional grant of Rs. 43,000, sanctioned by the Government of India, Public Works Department, for expenditure, accounts for the increase under this head.

42.—*Interest on Debt.*—The increase under this head was due to the annual progressive increase of capital outlay under the heads "35 and 49.—Irrigation Works." The interest for the year is calculated on this increased outlay.

45.—*Civil Works—Public Works Department.*—The decrease was chiefly due to the completion of the Postal buildings which were under construction during the year 1915-16 and to the curtailment of expenditure on account of the war.

REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL.

132. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1915-16 and 1916-17. The details of the major heads under which material differences have occurred are noted below:—

Actuals.				Actuals.			
Revenue.	1915-16.	1916-17.	Difference: more +, less −.	Expenditure.	1915-16.	1916-17.	Difference: more +, less −.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue.	98,74,249	99,27,144	+52,895				
IV.—Stamps ...	19,72,432	20,91,211	+1,18,779	1.—Refunds ...	76,079	40,903	−35,176
V.—Excise ...	75,49,396	83,16,826	+7,67,430	3.—Land Revenue ...	41,26,317	39,98,035	−1,28,282
VIII.—Income-tax ...	4,73,913	6,60,407	+1,86,494	11.—Forest ...	17,34,336	17,68,775	+34,439
IX.—Forest ...	32,78,262	33,71,578	+93,316	13.—Interest ..	1,98,774	1,77,075	−21,699
X.—Registration ...	3,74,251	4,20,903	+46,652	18.—General Administration.	9,25,185	9,62,329	+37,144
XVI-B.—Law and Justice—Jails.	2,17,291	3,05,914	+88,623	19-A.—Law and Justice.	28,83,014	28,50,990	−32,024
XVII.—Police ...	26,452	43,228	+16,776	20.—Police ...	35,88,952	34,72,855	−1,16,097
XXV.—Miscellaneous...	2,18,586	2,48,788	+30,202	22.—Education ...	27,85,989	29,96,352	+2,10,363
XXX.—Minor Works—Public Works Department.	38,839	59,069	+20,230	24-A.—Medical ...	6,94,816	7,13,831	+19,015
				24-B.—Sanitation ..	5,36,972	5,90,997	+54,025
				26-A.—Agriculture ...	7,81,288	8,34,256	+52,968
Other heads ...	15,60,172	15,91,124	+30,952	29.—Superannuation ...	9,61,856	10,30,669	+68,813
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	33,60,785	32,29,165	−1,21,620	30.—Stationery ...	3,70,289	3,37,940	−32,349
				32.—Miscellaneous ...	1,55,930	1,31,933	−23,997
				43.—Minor Works ..	5,77,173	3,81,718	−1,95,455
				45.—Civil Works—Civil.	5,05,173	4,21,349	−83,824
				45.—Civil Works—Public Works Department.	63,90,214	56,24,045	−7,66,169
				Other heads ...	13,33,763	12,70,040	+36,277
Total ...	2,89,44,628	3,02,75,357	+13,30,729	Total ...	2,86,26,120	2,77,04,092	−9,22,028

REVENUE.

The variations under the heads which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial have been explained under Imperial Revenue and Finance. The variations under the remaining heads are noted below :—

IX.—*Forest.*—The increase, mainly under the head "Timber and other Produce removed from the Forests by Consumers or Purchasers", was due to larger realisations under "Timber" and "Grazing and Fodder Grass." This increase was slightly counterbalanced by a decrease under the head "Timber and other Produce removed from the Forests by Government Agency" due to curtailment of Departmental operations owing to the wider adoption of the contract system.

X.—*Registration.*—The increase occurred under "Fees for Registering Documents", the general improvement of economic conditions having contributed largely to this result.

XVI-B.—*Law and Justice—Jails.*—Larger receipts from Jail manufactures on account of unexpected heavy demands from the Military Supply and Transport Department account for the increase under this head.

XVII.—*Police.*—The increase was due to recoveries on account of the Punitive Police Force stationed at Burhanpur.

XXV.—*Miscellaneous.*—The increase was under the head "Sales of Land and Houses" and was due to the sale of Nazul lands in the town of Nagpur.

XXX.—*Minor Works.*—Expansion of irrigation accounts for the increase under this head.

EXPENDITURE.

133. 3.—*Land Revenue.*—The decrease was mainly under the heads (1) "Charges of District Administration," (2) "Survey and Settlement" and (3) "Land Records." The decrease under the first head was due to the deputation of the members of the Indian Civil Service on Military and other duties and that under the second head to the postponement of the Settlement of the Narsinghpur District and to curtailment of expenditure in connection with the Hoshangabad and Balaghat Settlements. The non-utilization of the provision for the revision of the patwari halkabandi in the Nagpur District and vacancies in the patwari establishment account for the decrease under the third head.

11.—*Forest.*—The increase was under "A.—Conservancy and Works—Communications, etc., Roads and Bridges" and "B.—Establishment—Subordinate Forest and Depôt Establishment."

13.—*Interest.*—No remarks. The interest is worked out on the mean of the actual balances outstanding at the beginning and end of the year.

18.—*General Administration.*—Purchase of the Railway Saloon and Motor Car chiefly accounts for the increase under this head.

19-A.—*Law and Justice.*—The variations occurred chiefly under the following heads :—

(1) Law officers—18 ; (2) Judicial Commissioner +35 ; and (3) Criminal Courts—71.

The decrease under the first head was due to low expenditure on pleaders' fees and that under the third head to the deputation of a number of officers on Military and other duties, while the increase under the second head was due to the payment of the privilege leave allowances to an Additional Judicial Commissioner.

20.—*Police.*—The decrease occurred chiefly under "Salaries" and "Travelling Allowances of District Executive Force" and was due to the deputation of superior officers to Military and other duty.

22.—*Education.*—The variations occurred under the following heads :—

(1) Direction + 13 ; (2) Government Colleges, General + 32 ; (3) Government Colleges, Professional + 19 ; (4) Government Schools, General + 107 ; (5) Government Schools, Special + 15 ; (6) Grants-in-aid + 45 ; and (7) Miscellaneous—21.

The increases were chiefly due

(1) to the appointment of an officer on special duty ;

(2) to the revision of the staff of Professors and to large expenditure on the electric installation in the Robertson College, Jubbulpore ;

(3) to additional establishment and purchase of furniture and apparatus for the Engineering Branch of the Victoria College of Science, Nagpur ;

(4) to an increase under "Grants in support of Municipal and Local Schools" and "Establishment";

(5) to the opening of a Normal School at Akola ;

(6) to additional building grants sanctioned out of the lump provision made under "Government Schools, General."

The decrease under head (7) was due to the abolition of the Government Book Depôt at Badnera in September 1916.

24-A.—*Medical.*—Increased expenditure under "Salaries" and "Purchase of Instruments and Chemicals" for the Robertson Medical School and College accounts chiefly for the increase under this head.

24-B.—*Sanitation.*—The increase under this head was due to enhanced grants—

(1) for Vaccination Establishments ; (2) for Sanitary purposes ; and (3) to Local Bodies for plague expenditure.

26-A.—*Agriculture.*—The increase occurred mainly under "Agricultural Experiments" and "Co-operative Credit — Officer on special duty."

29.—*Superannuation.*—The increase was due to normal growth of pension charges and to more payments sanctioned under "Commuted Value of Pensions."

30.—*Stationery.*—The decrease occurred chiefly under "Printing at Private Presses" and "Stationery supplied from Central Stores" and was the result of the orders directing economy in the use of stationery.

32.—*Miscellaneous.*—Less payment of grants to Municipalities for general purposes accounts for the decrease under this head.

43.—*Minor Works.*—The decrease was due to special efforts made to curtail expenditure.

45.—*Civil Works—Civil.*—The decrease was due to the fact that provision for the maintenance of buildings was not made under this head with reference to the Government of India, Finance Department, Resolution No. 1101-A, dated the 10th December 1914. Such charges are debited to the head of service most closely connected with the object for which the grant is given.

45.—*Civil Works—In Chage of Public Works Department.*—The decrease was the result of the curtailment of expenditure on account of the war.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

DETAILS OF CENSUS

1—DETAILS OF CENSUS

134. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 37—54 of the Administration Report for the year 1911-12.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

System of registration.

135. The registration of vital statistics is said to have improved, but the check of statistics as at present performed is often worthless. The registration of births and deaths in Municipalities continues to be unsatisfactory. During the year, 633 persons were prosecuted for failure to report vital occurrences, of whom 139 were let off with warnings and the rest fined Rs. 605-13-0. The standing orders of the Administration regarding registration of vital statistics are now under revision and an improvement is expected on their publication.

Births.

136. The birth-rate of the year under report was 43·85 *per mille*, which is the lowest on record during the past 16 years. All districts, excepting Betul, show a decrease. The cause of the fall in the birth-rate seems to be the severe malarial epidemic of 1915. The percentage of male to female births was 104·49 in favour of the former.

Deaths.

137. The number of deaths rose from 499,682 to 555,999 and the death-rate from 35·91 to 39·95, or 4·04 per 1,000 over the previous year and 3·97 over the quinquennial mean. The deaths among children under five years of age formed 50 per cent of the total mortality against 56 in 1915. This seemingly favourable sign is not due to any other cause than the very low birth-rate of the year.

Chief diseases.

138. The high death-rate was chiefly due to the heavy toll exacted by cholera, plague and malaria, all of which were unusually prevalent during the year. The heavy and prolonged rains at a time when people were in camp in the open fields on account of plague led to much discomfort and sickness. Deaths from small-pox considerably declined and dysentery and diarrhœa were less prevalent.

Special measures.

139. Anti-plague measures took the form chiefly of inoculation and evacuation and 100,099 inoculations were performed. People readily evacuated their houses on the outbreak of plague; inoculation is slowly gaining in popularity. Preventive measures against cholera were seriously handicapped by the scarcity and high cost of permanganate of potash. The severe malarial outbreaks of the year brought about an exceptionally strong demand for quinine and the sales of quinine through vendors were doubled (Rs. 28,995 against Rs. 14,247 in 1915), and the quinine factory in the Nagpur Jail was not able to meet the full demand. In dealing with infantile mortality efforts are being made in different directions to effect an improvement, more especially in the instruction and control of professional *dais*.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1917 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

140. The principal feature of the year was a marked decrease in the number of garden sardars employed and a still greater decrease in the number of labourers recruited for the Assam tea gardens. The number of sardars employed was 2,318 as

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

compared with 3,893 in 1915-16 and the number of labourers recruited 1,475 as compared with 3,600. The average recruitment per sardar thus fell from ·9 to ·6, while no less than 41½ per cent of the emigrants came from Native States. These figures show clearly that with the rise in wages and the increasing prosperity of the agricultural classes, the field for recruitment in these Provinces is becoming steadily narrower. Recruitment was carried out entirely under the supervision of Local Agents, and no cases have come to notice of recruitment by garden sardars working directly under employers. The Government of India have, since the close of the year, sanctioned the abolition of the latter method in the Central Provinces, and henceforward no labourers will be recruited in these Provinces except under the supervision of Local Agents. The relations between the Local Agents and the District officials are reported to have been very satisfactory.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

141. There were six prosecutions during the year, of which three ended in conviction, and the licenses of four garden sardars were cancelled. Of the prosecutions, only two were for illegal recruitment by persons other than garden sardars and in both cases the accused were acquitted on appeal. A careful watch has been kept by the police on the former *arkattis* and contractors, but there does not appear to have been any serious attempt on the part of those persons to revive the old methods of recruiting.

Financial.

142. There were no receipts during the year. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 240.

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

MEDICAL RELIEF

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916 and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number of dispensaries.

143. During the year, which opened with 281 dispensaries, 14 new dispensaries were opened and 9 were closed, the number at the end of the year being 286. Of these, 29 were maintained by the State, 176 by Local Funds and 31 by Railways; 11 were State-aided institutions and 39 were private. There were 13 epidemic travelling dispensaries at work under the control of the Sanitary Commissioner. The three peripatetic dispensaries in the Mandla, Betul and Raipur Districts, which were doing excellent work in familiarising people with Western ideas of medicine and impressing them with the benevolent wishes of Government, had to be temporarily closed owing to the deputation of Sub-Assistant Surgeons on Military duty, but these have been again opened during 1917.

Number of patients.

144. The total number of patients treated at the various dispensaries in the Province again showed an increase from 1,802,778 in 1915 to 1,880,092 in 1916. The increase was marked in both in-door and out-door patients and bears witness to the fact that the hospitals enjoy an ever-increasing popularity.

Private dispensaries.

145. The total number of private dispensaries were 39, maintained by Missions, Mines, Collieries, etc. The total number of patients treated in these dispensaries in 1916 was 173,132, of whom 1,751 were in-door patients.

Relative frequency of diseases.

146. The ailments for which relief was sought for were, in order of numbers, malaria, diseases of the digestive system, skin and eye diseases and ulcers. All these show an increase over last year's figures.

Surgical operations.

147. The number of surgical operations performed during 1916 was 50,016 against 49,978 in 1915. The advancement of operative work is creditable to the Medical institutions and points to their increased popularity. Considerable improvement has taken place in operation rooms and the supply of up-to-date equipment.

Income.

148. The total income for the year was Rs. 12,21,046 as compared with Rs. 13,44,702 in 1915. The decrease is due to smaller contributions from Local Funds, smaller receipts under "Miscellaneous" and a smaller closing balance with which the year opened. Under all other heads there was an increase of income. Subscriptions from Indians rose from Rs. 73,559 to Rs. 1,05,132 in 1916. This is

MEDICAL RELIEF

due to the special subscriptions received during the year for the improvement of dispensary buildings. The system of requiring well-to-do patients to pay a small fee for medicine was continued experimentally at a good many dispensaries, and has now been introduced throughout the Province.

Expenditure.

149. The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 8,22,686 as against Rs. 9,14,435 in 1915.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Lunatic Asylum in the Central Provinces for the year 1916 and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Numbers and health.

150. The total number of lunatics in the Nagpur Asylum was 366 at the beginning of the year 1916. During the year, there were 110 admissions, one re-admission, 75 discharges and 40 deaths, so that the number at the close of the year was 362, of whom 97 were criminal lunatics. Of the 75 lunatics discharged, 40 were cured and 5 improved. 219 lunatics were admitted into the hospital as against 197 in the previous year. The mortality rate was 10·99 per cent of the average strength as against 12·30 in the previous year. Out of the 40 deaths, two patients received in a moribund condition died within a month of their admission. Most of the deaths were due to tubercle of the lungs (11), other tubercular infection (6), dysentery (8) and old age and debility (4).

Expenditure.

151. The total amount spent for the upkeep of the Asylum was Rs. 67,868 as against Rs. 60,376 in the last year. The increase was due to the construction of a few additional buildings, payment of bills pending at the close of last year and purchase of articles of diet, etc., in advance. The average cost per lunatic, excluding Public Works Department charges, was Rs. 126-5-6 against Rs. 111-12-4. Eight paying inmates died and five were discharged, and, as a result, receipts from paying patients decreased from Rs. 5,234 in 1915 to Rs. 4,340 during the current year.

Industries and improvements.

152. The profits during the year from the farm and manufacturing departments amounted to Rs. 2,844 against Rs. 4,338 last year. The decrease was due to the stoppage of the blanket industry for want of woollen yarn, the cost of which was prohibitive on account of the war, and to the auction of old and rejected cattle last year, which increased profits for that year. Rs. 7,603 were spent in structural improvements, and further works are in progress.

SANITATION

6—SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1916 and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Chief sanitary works.

153. Large schemes of town-sanitation have had to be temporarily abandoned on account of the lack of funds and the prohibitive cost of iron materials. The post of Sanitary Commissioner has been vacant since early in the war and the post of Sanitary Engineer was placed in abeyance towards the close of the year. The important works in progress were the Nagpur City drainage scheme, the Craddock Town drainage and the water-works at Akola, Arvi and Damoh. The three latter are approaching completion, and the drainage project for Harda has been completed since the close of the year.

Municipal sanitation.

154. Provincial grants amounting to Rs. 3,78,108 were made to Municipalities in connection with drainage schemes, water-supply projects and town improvements. Lack of funds and the high prices prevailing on account of the war have been an obstacle to sanitary progress in many towns. Many Municipal Committees take a keen interest in the sanitary administration of their towns. The Town-planning Exhibition held by Professor Geddes in Nagpur and the lectures delivered by him have been a further incentive towards sanitary progress. In many places public latrines, slaughter-houses, and beef and meat markets on approved plans have been built; surface drains have been constructed; private latrines are being systematically tackled and improved; congested areas are being gradually opened up and lands acquired for extension, and a provision of Rs. 84,500 has been made in the current year's budget for operations of this kind

in the large towns of Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Amraoti and Akola. There were in all 24 trained Sanitary Inspectors employed in the Province and five under training in Bombay. The Dispensary Medical Staff has done satisfactory inspection of children in the local schools and helped in cases of vaccination and the detection and prevention of the spread of infectious diseases.

Rural sanitation.

155. A special grant of Rs. 50,000 from Provincial Revenues was made during the year for improvements to water-supply in rural areas, and a sum of Rs. 29,783 was allotted for improvements in ryotwari villages. The Village Sanitation Act was extended to 11 villages. The receipts amounted to Rs. 1,80,013 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,62,341. In the "Town Fund" and other villages which have special funds of their own, the receipts aggregated Rs. 66,790 and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 64,090. The total expenditure on the improvement of water-supply was very small and more money could be usefully spent on this object.

7—VACCINATION

VACCINATION

[Triennial Report on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the years 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17 and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Mortality from small-pox.

156. The number of deaths from small-pox showed a further marked decline from 865 in 1915-16 to 292 in 1916-17. The disease still persists in the Chhattisgarh and Berar Divisions.

General record of vaccination.

157. The total number of vaccinations performed again fell from 599,959 in 1915-16 to 546,377 in 1916-17. The decline is in both primary vaccinations and revaccinations. The decline is to be ascribed to the prevalence of plague and cholera, to the low birth-rate in consequence of the prevalence of malaria in the previous year, the absence of small-pox epidemics and to a certain extent to the want of interest and experience among many of the existing Civil Surgeons who have replaced the regular staff absent on military duty. The amount of inspection done by Civil Surgeons was satisfactory. The provisions of the Vaccination Act were extended to four Notified Areas during the year.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

158. In Municipal towns the percentage of infants successfully vaccinated was only 82, a decrease of 11 per cent from last year's figure, owing to the lack of supervision in the absence of the regular medical staff and the indifference of the Municipal authorities.

Lymph.

159. The special buildings for locating the Central Vaccine Depôt were not ready and lymph could not be prepared on a sufficiently large scale to supply all the districts. Only seven districts were supplied from the Vaccine Depôt, local arrangements being made, as usual, for the rest. The special buildings have since been completed, and it is hoped that every district will receive its supply of lymph from the Depôt and that there will be a consequent decrease in the average cost of individual vaccinations.

Expenditure.

160. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 1,19,096 against Rs. 1,21,858 in the previous year, but, owing to the smaller number of operations, the cost per successful vaccination rose from Re. 0-3-7 to Re. 0-3-10. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 95,775 were contributed by Local Funds, Rs. 10,927 by Municipalities and Rs. 842 by Cantonments. The expenditure in working the Depôt was Rs. 10,534.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

161. An account of this subject will be found on pages 97 and 98, Sections 296—304, of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1911-12.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the quinquennium ending 31st March 1917 and Volume V of the Statistical Abstract.]

General.

162. During the quinquennium under report the percentage of pupils under instruction to the total population has risen from 2·08 to 2·52, males rising from 3·74 to 4·53 and females from ·4 to ·5. At the end of the quinquennium there were 4,561 schools with 351,165 scholars. The percentage of the total number of scholars to the total population of school-going age was 16·83. In higher education there has been satisfactory progress, and the advance of non-Brahmins and Indian Christians has been more marked than that of Brahmins. The war has necessitated the postponement of some matured schemes and has retarded the progress of primary education by the restriction it has placed on the provision of funds to meet the cost of the many urgently needed improvements in all branches of education. A scheme for a University for the Central Provinces and Berar has been submitted to the Government of India. The Morris College at Nagpur has been provincialised and new buildings provided for the Robertson College at Jubbulpore, and a scheme for the establishment of an Arts College at Amraoti has been submitted for sanction; a Government Engineering School has been established at Nagpur and a Government Girls' High School at Amraoti; largely increased grants have been given to District Boards and Municipal Committees for the improvement of the pay of teachers and the extension of schools; the graint-in-aid rules have been revised and increased grants given to private institutions; and the inspecting staff has been strengthened by the appointment of an Assistant Inspector and additional Deputy Inspectors. Building activity has been most conspicuous and more than 24 lakhs has been spent through the Public Works Department.

Expenditure.

163. The total expenditure on public instruction has risen to nearly 49 lakhs. Special non-recurring grants to the extent of 19·40 lakhs were received during the quinquennium from the Government of India; of these all but about 4 lakhs have been spent on the objects for which they were given. Recurring grants amounting to 6·14 lakhs were also received from the Government of India, and have been fully utilised, while the increase in the annual expenditure from Provincial Revenues over and above the special grants has amounted to about 12 lakhs.

Collegiate education.

164. Though there has been no increase in the number of institutions, the number of students has risen from 586 to 1,030 during the quinquennium and the colleges have found great difficulty in meeting the demand for accommodation. The academic results, though they have never been distinctly below the University percentages, are not satisfactory. Tutorial and library work on a more generous scale appears to be necessary and is being tried in all the colleges. Hostel life, games and societies are being developed and encouraged, and a co-operative society for helping poor students has been opened in the Morris College.

Secondary education—Boys.

165. The development of Secondary education during the quinquennium has progressed according to the policy laid down in 1911; the expressed aim of this policy was to improve the quality of Secondary education by the

establishment of a model Government High School at every district head-quarters and of model Anglo-Vernacular Schools in a few large centres, and to provide for expansion beyond the restricted range of Government schools by means of liberal grants to private and Municipal Schools. At present every district, except one, has a Government High School or a school explicitly accepted as its equivalent. But private enterprise has not come forward to help in meeting the expanding demand to such an extent as might reasonably have been expected, though Government has increased its grants-in-aid from Rs. 58,000 to Rs. 1,22,000. Aided Municipal High and Anglo-Vernacular Schools have increased by 1 and 19 respectively, and Aided High and Anglo-Vernacular Schools under private management by 3 and 22. The number of pupils in the Anglo-Vernacular Middle stage has increased by 3,890 or 32 per cent, and in the High stage by 1,934 or 65 per cent. The number of Matriculation candidates has grown by 50 per cent; but the percentage of passes has been very low, falling in 1916 to 28. This very low percentage of passes is to be ascribed to the excessive size of the classes, the small number and low qualification of teachers, unwise promotion in the lower classes and inadequate direction and control. The number of Vernacular Middle Schools has fallen from 244 to 218 as a result of the policy of abolishing unsuccessful classes, but there has been a gratifying increase of 41·6 per cent in the number of pupils in the Vernacular Middle stage, which is now 6,833. The League of Honour, which has been inaugurated by the enthusiasm of Mr. Chapman, Deputy Commissioner of Yeotmal in Berar, has emphasised new and most necessary ideals.

Primary education—Boys.

166. In the first three years of the quinquennium the expansion of Primary education was comparatively rapid owing mainly to the stimulus of the Imperial Grant and Durbar programme, but the last two years witnessed a decided set-back and the progress for the quinquennium as a whole shows no marked advance. The total increase has been 712 schools and 50,513 pupils, but the increase in the 4th Class has been only 4,000 and the principal increases have been in the infant and lower classes. The Primary School Readers and the curriculum have been improved. The position of teachers in Board Schools has been improved by the provision of pension and a higher scale of pay.

Training College.

167. There is only one Training College in the Province, and a scheme has been worked out for increasing its accommodation and staff in order to meet the expansion in the demand for trained teachers. In order to increase the output of trained teachers for Vernacular Schools the number of Normal Schools was increased to nine and one more will shortly be added. The standard of teaching has been raised and revised curricula provided, the course having been fixed at two years for all classes of candidates with a third year for selected men.

Technical and special education.

168. The chief event of the quinquennium has been the establishment of the Government Engineering School at Nagpur in July 1914. The School has been making satisfactory progress. The Shoemaker School and the School of Handicrafts at Nagpur, which are controlled by the Director of Industries, have been successful. A grant of Rs. 3,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Department of Industries for the encouragement of private industrial schools.

Female education.

169. The number of schools for girls and the number of pupils at the end of the quinquennium were 355 and 20,407 respectively as against 323 and 17,384 in 1911-12. In addition, there were 16,229 girls reading in boys' schools as against 10,603 in 1911-12. The bulk of the increase has been in the lower classes. There were 31 girls in the High stage and 236 in the Anglo-Vernacular Middle stage against 12 and 137 respectively in 1911-12. During the quinquennium only 9 girls passed the Matriculation. The Government Girls' High School in Amraoti was established in 1913 and has now got 54 pupils. The number of Vernacular Middle Schools fell from 29 to 25, the fall being confined to Aided Schools, while Government Schools rose by one. The scarcity of female teachers

EDUCATION

Schools for Europeans.

170. During the quinquennium there has been a slight increase in the number of pupils. The appointment of a separate Inspector of European Schools, the increase in maintenance grant and salaries and increased provision of scholarships for training have raised the general standard of teaching. Due attention is paid to games and hostel life is well organised in most schools.

Muhammadan education.

171. The number of Muhammadans under instruction in all classes of institutions is 32,356 against 28,551 in 1911-12; of these, 28,632 are boys and 3,724 girls. The progress in higher education is not very satisfactory; of the total number of pupils, 76 per cent have not reached the Upper Primary stage and only 1 per cent have reached the High stage. There are 50 scholarships specially reserved for Muhammadans. During the quinquennium liberal special grants were given in aid of Muhammadan education, and with this help good buildings have been provided for four of the Muhammadan schools.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

Vernacular Press.

172. During 1916-17 the publications registered in the Central Provinces and Berar numbered 120. Of these publications, sixteen were in English, sixty-six in Hindi, twenty-one in Marathi and the rest in other languages.

173. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Province during the year under report was thirty as against twenty-nine in the last year. In the course of the year two papers ceased to exist, while three new papers were started.

LITERARY SOCIETIES

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

174. The number of Literary and Scientific Societies at the close of the year was sixty-nine. The majority of these were subscription libraries, depending for their support chiefly on subscriptions from members. Two societies received grants from Government and two from District Councils, while Municipalities contributed towards the maintenance of thirteen.

ARTS AND SCIENCES

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

Arts and Sciences.

175. The Nagpur Museum continued to make useful progress and popular interest in the institution was well maintained. The average daily attendance fell from 373 to 303 during the year 1916-17 as a result of the outbreak of plague in Nagpur. A sum of Rs. 9,303 was expended in re-roofing the Museum, but the much-needed extensions had to be postponed owing to financial stringency. An interesting event in the Archæological Section was the discovery of two new coins of Aurangzeb of Nasirabad and Lucknow mints; the former is altogether an unpublished mint, while the latter is the second known gold coin of that mint. Seventeen mammals and thirty birds were added to the Natural History Section, and a collection of fish in the Telinkheri Tank is being made. The number of persons visiting the Raipur Museum declined from 82,107 to 46,587; this was due to the prevalence of plague in Raipur for five months during the year. No additions were made to the Museum on account of want of space.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information, see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY

176. The expenditure of the Public Works Department on monuments and antiquities during the year was Rs. 9,303. The work of underpinning the turret of the Fort wall at Ballarpur in the Chanda District was nearly completed. Repairs to the tomb of Lalkhan at Amner, in the Amraoti District, were completed. The work of dismantling and reconstructing the Mahadeo Temple at Gandai in the Drug District was started. Several minor works of conservation in the ancient monuments at Dhamda, Sirpur, Asirgarh, Burhanpur and Eran were also undertaken.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Ecclesiastical.

177. The Diocese of Nagpur, which was formed in 1903, includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, the district of Sambalpur in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara and all stations in Rajputana except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

STATIONERY

2—STATIONERY

178. The total value of stationery supplied to offices and courts from the Central Depôt, including cost of carriage, as well as of stationery purchased locally fell from Rs. 94,387 in 1915-16 to Rs. 71,934 in 1916-17, a decrease of 23 per cent. The charges on account of conveyance of forms also decreased from Rs. 6,733 to Rs. 6,587. The value of stationery supplied to printing presses, including the cost of carriage, rose from Rs. 89,434 in 1915-16 to Rs. 1,01,779 in 1916-17, the percentage of increase being 13.

GENERAL

3—GENERAL

Registration of rainfall.

179. The number of raingauges maintained in the Central Provinces was 140, as in the previous year. Of these, 22 were under the control of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 11 under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, while 16 were in the Feudatory States and the remainder were under the supervision of the Director of Land Records. No change was made in the location of raingauge stations, but the gauge at Rajim was removed to a more suitable site. During the year under report sanction was accorded to the establishment of two new raingauges at Pithora and Nawapara in Raipur District. In Berar the number of raingauges remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 43. Inspections were 298 in the Central Provinces and 161 in Berar as against 306 and 102, respectively, in the previous year.

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REPORT

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CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1916-17

Nagpur

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